

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER OFFICIAL JOURNAL

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

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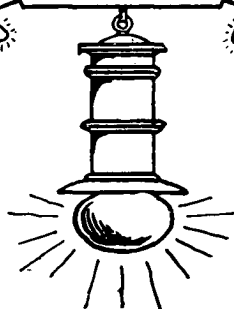
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NOVEMBER, 1911

EDITORIAL

The Secession Movement

A. F. of L. Convention

EDUCATION

# THE ELECTRICAL



# WORKER

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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Affiliated with American Federation of Labor and  
all Its Departments.

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OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

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## SECEDERS REPUDIATED

### American Federation of Labor Convention Seats Regular Delegates— Proceedings Relating to Electrical Workers

Secretary Morrison re-read the following protest against the seating of the delegates representing the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the report of the committee thereon:

"We, the undersigned delegates to this convention, hereby make protest to the seating of the delegates of the Electrical Workers representing the McNulty faction so-called for the very potent reason, to-wit:

"That they do not represent the majority of the organized Electrical Workers of the United States and Canada.

"That they are a menace to the peace of the labor movement as a whole.

"Also that they have defied the mandates of the St. Louis convention of the American Federation of Labor, which convention adopted a plan and was carried out in conjunction with the executive council of the A. F. of L., to amalgamate the forces of the Electrical Workers.

"Mr. McNulty and his associates have refused to abide by the rulings of the A. F. of L., and to seat them would mean a continuance of our industrial disturbances.

Faternally submitted,

E. J. Brais,

Delegate Journeymen Tailors' Union.

A. Rosenberg,

Ladies Garment Workers' Union."

The report of the committee on credentials on the above protest is as follows:

"In view of the fact that the delegates from the Electrical Workers are affiliated with the A. F. of L., have been seated at several previous conventions since their internal dispute first arose, we would recommend that the protest be not entertained, and the Electrical Workers affiliated with the A. F. of L., be seated."

Delegate Carey—I move the adoption of the recommendation of the committee. (Seconded.)

Delegate Brais—I move as an amendment that this part of the report of the committee be deferred until the executive council makes a report on the floor of this convention.

Vice President O'Connell—I rise to a point of order on the motion. There is no protest setting forth that the delegates of the Electrical Workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor are indebted for per capita tax, or other financial reasons that would debar them from representation in this convention, nor having violated the fundamental laws of this organization to cause their credentials to be protested by an affiliated organization. If there is some alleged grievance to be presented there is a proper place for it. Therefore the question of contending the right of the delegates to be seated in this convention is in violation of the laws of the A. F. of L., and not in order.

President Gompers—The grounds upon which the protest is based, to deny the delegates from the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers representation in this convention by delegates, goes farther than their right to representation. It strikes at their affiliation to the American Federation of Labor. They cannot be denied those rights upon an assumption of guilt, at least until after they have had a fair trial. The grounds of the protest are therefore declared out of order. The point of order as raised by Delegate O'Connell is sustained. The question recurs upon the adoption of the report of the committee. The chair will call for a vote by show of hands.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee, which recommended the seating of the delegates of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, was carried by a vote of 175 in the affirmative to 14 in the negative.

Delegate Carey—I move the adoption of the report of the committee on credentials as a whole. (Seconded and carried.)

\* \* \* \* \*

"Again we are compelled to report that the controversy between the affiliated and unaffiliated International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers remains unadjusted. The St. Louis convention referred the entire matter to us. At our meeting in January the representatives of both branches of the Electrical Workers were present. The situation was thoroughly gone over. Every opportunity was afforded the representatives of both sides for the expression of their respective opinions and beliefs. We, as an executive council in executive session gave to this subject our very best thought and prolonged discussion. We finally decided upon a specific course providing for the amalgamation of the two bodies as follows:

The St. Louis convention of the American Federation of Labor referred to the executive council the matter of the division existing among the Electrical Workers, with directions to make every possible effort in its power to amalgamate the warring factions into a united and harmonious organization.

After hearing the representatives of the Electrical Workers, and giving much consideration to the directions and actions of the St. Louis convention of the Federation,

The executive council finds that by constitutional provision the regular conventions of the Electrical Workers officered by Frank J. McNulty, president, and Peter W. Collins, secretary; and the Electrical Workers officered by J. J. Reid, as president and J. W. Murphy, as secretary, will be held at the same time, to-wit, September 14, 1911.

The executive council, therefore, requests that both conventions be held in the city of Minneapolis, or such other city as may be agreed upon by both organizations.

The executive council urges all parties interested to make every possible effort to bring about thoroughly representative conventions, and that President Gompers shall upon receipt of the necessary information as to date and place of holding conventions, issue a circular to all local unions of Electrical Workers submitting this document and urging them to be represented by their proper and legal number of delegates.

The executive council directs that after the proper organization of the two conventions for the transaction of business that each convention shall elect a committee of five to meet jointly together with the President of the American Federation of Labor, the President of the Building Trades Department and the President

of the Metal Trades Department, or representatives appointed by them, to consider and devise rules and plans for amalgamation. As soon as this joint committee has completed their work, the committee shall report their conclusions and recommendations to each convention for ratification.

Upon ratification by both conventions, the two conventions shall unite and meet as one convention of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and shall be governed, as to procedure by the rules and recommendations of the joint committee on amalgamation, proceeding to transact all business that should properly come before the Brotherhood convention.

The funds in bank in hands of the officers and property of both organizations, shall at the close of the convention be placed so as to be subject to the disposal of the newly elected officers of the amalgamated Brotherhood in accord with such directions as shall have been made by the joint convention.

The members of the executive council, or their representatives, shall remain with the convention acting in an advisory capacity, rendering every assistance in their power to permanently unite the organized Electrical Workers into one harmonious Brotherhood, and shall immediately report upon the result of their efforts to the executive council of the American Federation of Labor.

The executive council urges and expects the officers of both factions of the Brotherhood, the one unaffiliated with the Federation, as well as the one that is a part of the Federation, to work steadfastly and earnestly toward the end which the St. Louis convention had in view when it referred the matter to the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, namely, the amalgamation of all organized Electrical Workers into one solid and harmonious organization fitted to accomplish the great work of trade union activity in the interest of the Electrical Workers of America.

It was further provided by our decision that a preliminary meeting should be held between the representatives of both organizations of Electrical Workers with President Gompers for the purpose of carrying into effect the proposed plan of amalgamation.

In compliance with our directions, President Gompers communicated with President McNulty, of the affiliated Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and with President Reid, of the unaffiliated Brotherhood, conveying to them our directions and the plan of amalgamation. He then entered into correspondence with them for the purpose of arranging for the preliminary meeting for the representatives of both organizations. Mr.

Reid stated that his executive board would hold itself in readiness to send their representatives to attend the conference at any time and place that would be indicated. President McNulty stated that the matter had been referred to his executive board for a decision. President Gompers, on May 4th, definitely designated May the 29th, at the Washington headquarters as the time and place for holding the preliminary conference and so notified both parties. On May 13th and on May 19th, Mr. Reid and Mr. McNulty wrote to President Gompers as follows:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Springfield, Ill., May 13, 1911.  
Mr. Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother—I visited you at Washington, April 5th, and at that time you stated that you had again written Mr. McNulty for a statement relative to his attitude on the decision of the executive council of January 16. You advised me to wait until you had received a reply therefrom and up to this time I have waited patiently to hear from you should you hear from Mr. McNulty or not.

This month we have to submit a referendum to our members to decide the place of holding our international convention next September. Now I am waiting to learn whether Mr. McNulty and his membership are to hold such a convention at Minneapolis as your council decision mentions unless another city was mutually agreed upon.

I request such information from you as to any knowledge you have, or procure, on the subject of city in which the McNulty faction are to hold their convention.

Any advice you may give me on the subject will be appreciated.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) J. J. Reid,  
General President.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Springfield, Ill., May 19, 1911.  
Mr. Samuel Gompers, President A. F. of L., and Executive Council of A. F. of L., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother—I beg leave to reply to the communication received from you some time ago, referring to the controversy among the Electrical Workers.

In view of the very great principle involved in this matter, the interests of all Electrical Workers, the history of the attempts by the seceders to disrupt and disorganize our Brotherhood, and particularly in view of your own very great interest in the whole controversy, our executive board, who were authorized by our convention to deal with the matter, has

very carefully considered the entire situation. They have given great consideration to your recommendations and likewise to the interests of our Brotherhood, and have instructed me to send the following reply to you.

We beg leave to point out that the situation has in no way changed except that we are now very much nearer a trial, since the executive council of the A. F. of L., went on record stating that as soon as the law suits were disposed of you would tender your friendly offices to bring about an amalgamation.

The questions raised in this law suit can never be settled until they are settled rightly. Until they are settled in court, any member or local union of our Brotherhood could file a law suit and raise the same issues. This will be impossible, however, when said issues are settled by the courts. The history of this law suit is ample proof of that fact.

Knowing the things the seceders have done in the past we are warned of the things they might and could do in the future, and it would not serve the best interests of our Brotherhood or its future welfare if we entered again into negotiations with them pending the decision of the court on the issues raised by themselves.

A very short memory will recall that the seceders violated grossly every agreement they entered into with us, and undertook by a sham or subterfuge, to create the impression that they were dismissing this law suit in May 1910, on the pretext that you were holding a conference between the seceders and our officers in New York City. You know that such was not the case and the seceders knew that, but still they endeavored to mislead both the court and yourselves. They also, at that time, wrote letters to the banks threatening them with law suits if they paid this money out to the Brotherhood. Your executive council at their meeting in June, 1910, recognized this fact and stated in this connection that "Good faith in this or any similar proceeding is in doubt."

The seceders, instead of carrying out any agreement entered into with us, have made every effort to complicate the situation and to postpone a trial of this case, and are still preventing these questions from being decided by the courts, which alone have the power to forever settle the issues that are now raised, and the question that anybody else might raise along the same lines in the future.

We earnestly hope for an early trial and full disclosure of all the questions raised by the seceders in this law suit, so that organized labor in general can know the falseness of the claims made by

the seceders. Such decision is necessary for the continuance of the principles upon which our Brotherhood is founded, and without such a decision any number of disgruntled members or disappointed office seekers can impede the progress of our organization as some of them are doing now.

Under the circumstances we cannot agree to your suggestions, and respectfully request that you will co-operate with us to the end that nothing will be done that will tend to further delay the trial of the law suits of Cleveland, which now stand at the head of the calendar, as that and only that will produce unity and harmony in our Brotherhood and guarantee freedom from legal entanglements in the future.

In closing we beg to state that we sincerely appreciate your good offices so kindly tendered to us, and assure you that we will be glad to further co-operate with you as soon as the legal rights of our Brotherhood are established, which will be at the time the court decides the questions raised by the seceders.

With best wishes, I beg to remain,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) F. J. McNulty,  
International President.

The conference for May 4th therefore was not held.

On August 4th President Reid wrote President Gompers as follows:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Springfield, Ill., Aug. 4, 1911.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother—Complying with the recommendations of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor held in Washington, D. C., January 16-27, inclusive: "In re \* \* \* \* \* the matter of the division amongst the Electrical Workers \* \* \* \* \* which recommendations and decision you communicated to me February 18, 1911, I advise you that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have amended their laws to comply as far as possible with the recommendations of the executive council, to-wit: "The executive council therefore requests that both conventions be held in the city of Minneapolis or such other city as may be agreed upon by both organizations." We will meet in convention September 18, 1911, in the city of Rochester, N. Y. I am informed that the McNulty-Collins faction will convene in Rochester, N. Y. on the same date. I direct your attention to that part of the executive council's decision of January 16-27th as follows:

"The executive council urges all parties interested to make every possible effort to bring about thoroughly repre-

sentative conventions, and that President Gompers shall, upon receipt of the necessary information as to date and place of holding conventions, issue a circular to all local unions of Electrical Workers, submitting this document and urging them to be represented by their proper and legal number of delegates."

To further co-operate with you our general secretary is mailing you under separate cover the addresses of the secretaries of our local unions.

I have the pleasure at this time in extending to you an invitation to address our convention and sincerely trust you will find time to attend.

With best wishes, I am,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) J. J. Reid,  
General President.

President Gompers then wrote to President McNulty as follows:

August 16, 1911.

Mr. F. J. McNulty, President International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, Pierik Bldg., Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother—Enclosed you will please find a copy of a letter which has been received from Mr. J. J. Reid, representing the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers unaffiliated to the American Federation of Labor. You will note that the unaffiliated organization of Electrical Workers has decided to hold its convention at the same time and place as the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of which you are president, that is, at Rochester, New York September 18, 1911.

Enclosed you will please find a copy of the action of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor in the Electrical Workers' case, as directed by the St. Louis convention. You will notice that the executive council directed that at the city where the conventions of the two bodies of Electrical Workers are to be held, that the president of the American Federation of Labor, the president of the Building Trades department, and the president of the Metal Trades department shall go there to aid in considering and devising rules and plans for the amalgamation of the two bodies of Electrical Workers.

Of course, before I advise the presidents of the departments to be present at Rochester for the purpose of carrying into effect the instructions of the A. F. of L. convention, I want you to advise me whether you, on behalf of your Brotherhood, will so conform your course to the end that the presidents of the departments or their representatives, and the president of the A. F. of L., or his representatives, can carry into effect the

instructions given and as more fully set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the enclosed action of the executive council. You will please advise me in regard to the above on or before September 1st.

Trusting that I may hear from you at your earliest convenience, and that your reply will be favorable, and that unity may be established, I am

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) Samuel Gompers,

President American Federation of Labor.

To that letter Mr. McNulty replied:

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Springfield, Ill., August 30, 1911. Mr. Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor, Ouray Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brother—Your favor dated August 16, 1911, awaited my arrival at our international office today. In reply beg to call your attention to our letter sent you in answer to your favor of April 3, 1911, which makes the position of our Brotherhood clear in the premises.

A joint convention previous to the trial of the suits in Cleveland is impossible and can never be held, regardless of who may desire it, as any effort to hold such a convention would result in a multiplicity of law suits which would complicate the situation more than it is at the present time. No one knows this better than Messrs. Reid, Murphy, Sullivan, etc.

Every effort made by us to bring about an adjustment was made sincerely. The opposition took advantage of those efforts to further complicate the situation. Now that they must come into court and face the issues they themselves raised, they desire to sidestep by urging a joint convention, but as a joint convention can not determine the legal rights of individual members, or prevent them, in the future, from tying up the funds of our Brotherhood, making it impossible for us to use the funds for the purpose for which they were created, we do not intend to enter into any other negotiations with the seceders until the suits at law are settled in Cleveland, which will settle once and for all the legal rights of dissatisfied and disgruntled members, and prevent them from destroying the usefulness of our Brotherhood by keeping us in continual litigation similar to the litigation that confronts our Brotherhood at this time.

We recognize and realize that your good offices are tendered to us in good faith, and I assure you that we would be pleased to co-operate with you in carrying out your suggestions if the same were practicable and would bring about the desired end.

We sincerely thank you and your colleagues for the services that you tender

and assure you that the same is appreciated, but we must decline them for the above mentioned reasons.

With best wishes, I am,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) F. J. McNulty,

International President.

In view of the above correspondence, it was deemed an entire waste of time to have either our president or the presidents of the Building and Metal Trades departments of the A. F. of L., proceed to the convention city. Despite the declarations, however, the affiliated and the unaffiliated organizations of Electrical Workers of their own volition appointed committees to confer with a view of reaching an adjustment of their differences. The agreement they reached, with the names of the joint committees signed, is as follows:

We, the joint committee, recommend for adoption, by each convention lawfully and under constitution assembled, the following recommendations as a result of our deliberations:

First—That each convention lawfully assembled does immediately place their attorneys representing them in the Geib suit directly under control and direction of their respective committees, whose signatures are attached hereto.

Second—That each committee be empowered to proceed at once to Cleveland, Ohio, with credentials signed by the general officers of each organization and under seal, for the purpose of taking up the matter of the Geib suit with court in charge, and from court each side shall ascertain the standing and record of the case, and further shall learn why, from said court, the Geib case cannot be tried immediately. After ascertaining what these obstacles are, these representatives shall remove same through attorneys, and inform the court that it is the wish and earnest desire of each convention, that suit be decided at once upon its merits.

Third—That it be the sense of each convention, lawfully assembled, that absolutely no obstacles nor interference shall be tolerated from any officer or member of either organization, but that all officers and members of each organization shall, upon demand, co-operate with their respective committees, that their instructions may be carried out to the letter.

Fourth—Upon a decision being rendered by the court, that organization being ruled against shall immediately upon such decision being rendered, adjourn and affiliate with successful litigant, under such provisions as shall be recommended by the respective committees.

Fifth—In event each or either organization is adjourned at time court de-



cision is rendered, that respective committees are and will be retained, and empowered to use any and all means necessary to bring about unity among all the Electrical Workers affected, and shall continue so until same is accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene E. Smith,  
W. J. Dyson,  
Harry A. Freed,  
Wm. F. Kelly,  
Guy T. White,  
H. W. Raven,  
L. C. Grasser,  
M. Birmingham,  
M. P. Gordon,  
Chas. P. Ford,

M. Birmingham,  
Chairman of Joint Committee.  
Eug. E. Smith,  
Secretary of Joint Committee.  
September 26th, 1911.

The unaffiliated organization adopted the report but burdened it with the condition that its system of District Councils in cities must be adopted by the organization affiliated, a system which had been in vogue before the division and which had been discarded by the affiliated Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as being ruinous.

Our affiliated organization adopted the agreement with a declaration that it waived no legal rights it held before the courts. This was interpreted by the unaffiliated organization as in conflict with the provision in the agreement that no appeal should be taken from the decision rendered in the pending case before the court. To remove that impression the affiliated organization's convention thereupon and without reservation declared its approval of the agreement as drafted and agreed upon by the committees from both organizations and continued its committee. The unaffiliated organization's convention withdrew and discharged its committee from further conferences and adjourned.

At our meeting at headquarters during the week of October 16-21, desirous of having these matters authentically placed before us, we invited Mr. McNulty, president of the affiliated Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Mr. Reid, president of the unaffiliated organization, to meet with us and present the facts, the facts elicited being as we have just stated them. We finally asked this question of both Mr. McNulty and Mr. Reid: "Are you willing to recommend the settlement of the differences between the affiliated and unaffiliated Brotherhoods of Electrical Workers upon the exact terms of the agreement drafted and reported by the joint committee of the representatives

of both organizations at the Rochester conventions?"

President McNulty replied that he would recommend to his organization and the committee representing it a settlement on the exact terms contained in the joint committee's report.

President Reid replied to the same question that the matter is not in his hands but he would submit to the membership of his organization anything the executive council would furnish him.

Inasmuch as Mr. McNulty for his Brotherhood regards the agreement reached by the joint committee at Rochester as binding upon his organization and Mr. Reid has answered that he would submit to the membership of his organization any recommendation made by the executive council,

We urge that this convention recommend to Mr. Reid that the joint agreement reached at Rochester be submitted to a referendum vote of his membership, and that the unaffiliated organization authorize and direct a committee to meet with the committee of the affiliated organization with the view of carrying the provisions of the Rochester agreement into effect, and thus amalgamate the two organizations into one comprehensive Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Resolution No. 109—By delegates C. F. Russi, Jr., of the San Antonio Trades Council; Duncan McDonald, U. M. of M.; A. B. Lowe, T. H. Gerry, T. J. McDonald, M. of W.; Max S. Hayes, Typographical; Chas. H. Moyer, W. F. M.; M. M. Donoghue, M. F. L.; P. J. Doherty, A. W. Wright, Vancouver T. & L. C.; Louis Kemper, U. B. W.; Jonahon Baines, Cigarmakers, and Geo. H. Ullrich, P. C. L. U.:

Whereas, at the present time a large organization of Electrical Workers is unaffiliated with the American Federation of Labor; and

Whereas, this body of Electrical Workers in their desire to become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor complied fully with the provisions of the plan of amalgamation decided upon by the executive council after the St. Louis convention, and

Whereas, the precedent of seating two organizations representing the same craft has already been established by the American Federation of Labor; be it

Resolved, that the unaffiliated International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as officered by J. J. Reid, general president, and J. W. Murphy, general secretary, be granted a charter and their delegates seated in this convention.

Referred to committee on Building Trades.

Delegate Tveitmoe, secretary of the committee, reported as follows:

Your committee considered the report of the executive council under the caption "Electrical Workers," and resolution No. 109, which reads as follows:

Resolution No. 109—By delegates C. F. Russi, Jr., of the San Antonio Trades Council; Duncan McDonald, U. M. W. of A.; A. B. Lowe, T. H. Gerry, T. J. O'Donnell, M. of W.; Max S. Hayes, Typographical; Chas. H. Moyer, W. F. M.; M. M. Donoghue, Montana F. L.; P. J. Doherty, A. W. Wright, Vancouver T. & L. C.; Louis Kemper, U. B. W.; J. Mahlon Barnes, Cigarmakers, and Geo. H. Ulrich, Philadelphia C. L. U.

Whereas, At the present time a large organization of Electrical Workers is unaffiliated with the American Federation of Labor; and

Whereas, This body of Electrical Workers in their desire to become affiliated with the American Federation of Labor complied fully with the provisions of the plan of amalgamation decided upon by the executive council after the St. Louis convention, and

Whereas, The precedent of seating two organizations representing the same craft has already been established by the American Federation of Labor; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the unaffiliated International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as officered by J. J. Reid, general president, and J. W. Murphy, general secretary, be granted a charter and their delegates seated in this convention

Your committee concurs in Resolution No. 109, and recommends that the following recommendation of the executive council be approved:

"We urge that this convention recommend to Mr. Reid that the joint agreement reached at Rochester be submitted to a referendum vote of his membership, and that the unaffiliated organization authorize and direct a committee to meet with a committee of the affiliated organization, with the view of carrying

the provisions of the Rochester agreement into effect, and thus amalgamate the two organizations into one comprehensive Brotherhood of Electrical Workers affiliated to the American Federation of Labor."

A motion was made and seconded that the report of the committee be adopted.

Delegate Abell—I move that a representative of the unaffiliated body be allowed the floor.

Delegate Short—Inasmuch as the representatives of the affiliated organization have stated that they desire to go to the convention without discussion, owing to the lateness of the hour, I think it would not be proper to give the floor to the unaffiliated organization.

Delegate Hayes (M. S.) urged that a representative of the unaffiliated organization be given the floor.

President Gompers stated if there was no objection Mr. J. J. Reid would be allowed the privilege of the floor.

No objection being offered, Mr. Reid was given the privilege of the floor, and discussed the question at length.

Delegate McNulty discussed the question, replied to a number of statements made by Mr. Reid, and spoke in detail of the action that had been taken by the organization represented to endeavor to amalgamate the two branches of Electrical Workers.

Delegate Sontheimer moved as an amendment to the pending motion that the chair be authorized to appoint a committee of seven delegates to settle the question, providing the heads of both the contending factions would agree in writing that they would accept the finding of the committee of seven. (Seconded.)

Delegate Keegan (J. J.) spoke in support of the recommendation of the committee.

The amendment offered by Delegate Sontheimer was lost.

The motion to adopt the report of the committee was carried by a vote of 163 in the affirmative and 15 in the negative.

## BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT

### Resolution No. 18 Adopted by Unanimous Vote by the Convention of Building Trades Department, Atlanta, Ga., November 29, 1911

Resolved, That this Convention endorse the action of the American Federation of Labor in Convention assembled in the City of Atlanta, Ga., in the case of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers versus the seceding Electrical Workers, and said action be made part of the minutes of this Convention and all local Building Trades Councils

be officially notified thereof, with instructions that all local Building Trades Councils recognize only local unions of Electrical Workers as is affiliated with the bona fide, recognized and affiliated International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The following recommendations were adopted by unanimous vote of Building

Trades Department, A. F. of L. Convention, Atlanta, Ga., November 30, 1911:

Your committee on organization recommends that the principles as declared by the American Federation of Labor to-wit, be indorsed and made part of the proceedings of this convention.

That there be but one organization recognized and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, and this department, and that this department lend its every assistance to the end that this principle be put into effect as soon as is practicable.

That the officers and Executive Council be and are hereby instructed to act in conjunction with the officers and Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to carry into effect the principles and purposes involved in this declaration, "ONE TRADE, ONE ORGANIZATION."

Your committee believes that this declaration should be sent broadcast throughout our jurisdiction so that if a faction of a trade breaks away, splits, or seceded from the parent or bona fide organization, that that faction may know at the beginning that there can be no recognition of it by this Building Trades Department, nor can some faction of a trade not yet affiliated with the organization that is affiliated here hold out from affiliation with its parent organization with the hope that it will sooner or later be chartered by the American Federation of Labor or this Department.

The report was signed by the committee in full.

A motion was made and seconded that the recommendation of the committee be adopted.

The Declaration of Principles Made by the Adjustment Committee to the Thirty-first Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor on November 25, 1911, which was concurred in by Convention and later affirmed by Building Trades Department Convention.

Vice-President O'Connell—That concludes our report with the exception that we are going to make a general declaration, carrying out the ideas expressed by me in opening our report yesterday morning. The declaration is as follows:

Before closing the report the Committee on Adjustment wishes to make the following declarations and recommendations: Whatever argument or excuse there might have been in the past for the existence of two organizations of the one craft, we now believe that such argument or excuse is absent. It is the opinion of the Committee on Adjustment, many of whose members have had to deal with disputes caused by the existence of two organizations of one craft for many years, that the time has arrived for the American Federation of Labor to openly and emphatically declare itself to

the effect that, large as this country is, it is not large enough to hold two organizations of the one craft. Therefore your committee recommends that this Thirty-first Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor goes squarely on record in favor of the above declaration and your committee further recommends that this convention instruct the President and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to carry into effect the principles and purposes involved in this declaration—one craft, one organization. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

Jas. O'Connell, Chairman,  
John Golden, Secretary,  
Matthew Woll,  
John Moffitt,  
T. W. McCullough,  
Wm. E. Klapetsky,  
Jos. Franklin,  
H. C. Shalvoy,  
Thos. S. Farrell,  
Frank Gehrig,  
Edward Flore,  
M. J. Hallinan,  
Percy Thomas,  
Wm. Taber,  
Victor Altman,

Committee on Adjustment.

Delegate Golden—I move the adoption of the declaration.

Delegate Abell—Does this mean complete trade autonomy?

Vice-President O'Connell—I don't know what you mean by the question. It means that in the machinists' craft, for instance, or the printing craft, or the electricians' craft, or any other trade recognized as a trade, there is no room in this country for two organizations. That is what it means.

President Gompers—I think it would be but proper to call attention to this fact, that there is a general misapprehension as to the real meaning of the word "autonomy," autonomy as applied to and used in the trade union movement and the American Federation of Labor. Autonomy is the right of the organization itself to govern itself.

Treasurer Lennon asked if the report of the committee might not be construed as being in more or less opposition to the resolution adopted in the Scranton Convention on the subject of organization that in some instances are recognized as having the right to contain within their organization all the people who are engaged in the industry.

Vice-President O'Connell—We had in mind what Delegate Lennon speaks of which is not the intention of the committee at all. The motion of the committee recognizes that the trades have that right, but the committee wants this declaration to go out, that if a faction of

a trade breaks away, or the organization splits, the portion that goes on the outside may know at the very start, that there can be no recognition of two divisions of that organization in this Federation, nor can some faction of a craft not yet affiliated with the organization that is affiliated here, some independent portion of a trade on the outside, hold out with the hope that in the future it is possible for that portion of that craft to be chartered by the American Federation of Labor. It does not interfere in any way with the decision and declaration of the Scranton Convention. It recognizes fully the right of the miners as they are now organized.

Delegate Hugler—Would it be possible to insert the declaration of the Scranton Convention?

Vice-President O'Connell—The minute you do that you are getting away from this clear cut declaration. There is no way to misunderstand this declaration unless the conventions hereafter put a construction on it by their own vote.

President Gompers—The chair is of the opinion that it is your desire to adopt the declaration of the committee as the convention's own declaration and yet not to modify the declaration of the Scranton Convention. You have heard the questions and answers, and if they are made part of the record of the proceedings of the convention they will show the intent of the declaration as in no way curbing or modifying the Scranton Convention declaration, it seems to me the purpose of all will be served.

Delegate Connors—The question I want settled is a definition of what a trade is. We have discussed the Brewery Workers' and the Teamsters' proposition and I presume from what is arrived at that the teamster is a brewery worker. That is what I want to find out. I think some time in the future this thing will be

discussed in here again. We have certain organizations that are going about attempting to gobble up other organizations. What we would like to know is what constitutes a trade. At least I would like to know.

Vice-President O'Connell — That can only be decided where there is a contention, by the proper authority. That is the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor or the Convention itself will decide. When there is a dispute between some portion of an organization affiliated a declaration can be made as to what that trade consists of; but the general declaration contained in the resolution applies to those things we recognize as trades affiliated with this organization. There can be no misunderstanding as to that.

Delegate Healy—It may be that this will be construed differently from the way it is put to us now. I think your committee should draw up a declaration making matters clear so that we can understand them. It may be that after we have voted on this you will decide that the Engineers and Firemen are one organization. I have been asked on more than one occasion by officers of this Federation what it means.

eration in the past year or two if there is not a possibility of bringing those two organizations together. We should be very careful before we adopt general declarations at this time. I am opposed to voting on any declaration until I know

Vice-President O'Connell—The declaration anticipates what you say. If the Engineers and Firemen agree among themselves to be in one organization this declaration anticipates such a thing, but if you do not decide to do it then this declaration will not force you to do it.

The motion to adopt the recommendation of the committee was carried.

#### EMPLOYMENT BUREAUS SUCCESS.

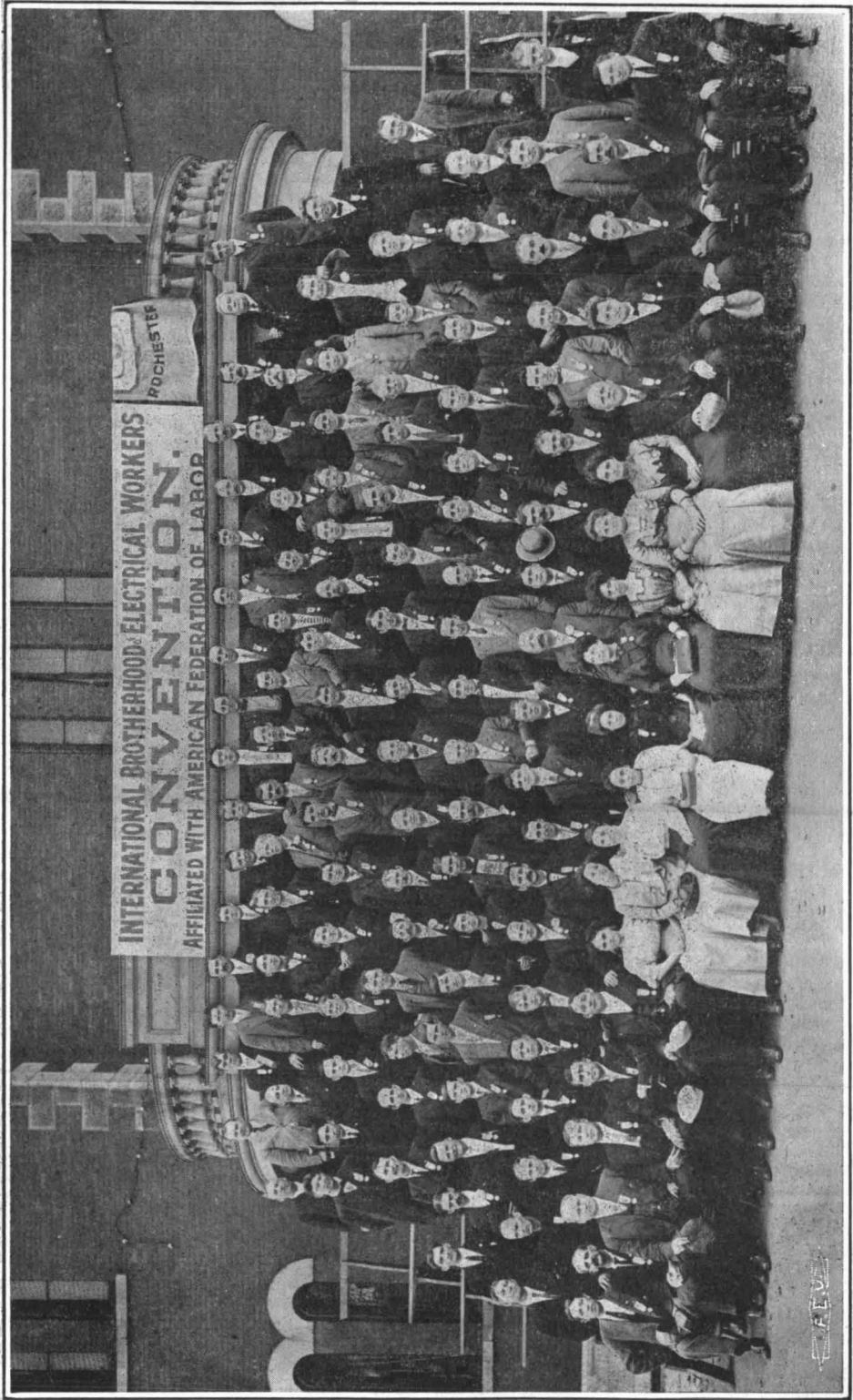
The state free employment bureau in St. Paul, Minn., broke all records for the month of October, in both the women's and men's departments, showing a big increase over 1910. In St. Paul and Minneapolis combined employment was found for 3,540 men and 1,691 women. The employment office at Duluth found employment for 1,440.

#### MINERS WILL DEMAND INCREASE.

The miners of the anthracite region in convention decided to make a demand for an increase in wages, the 8-hour day, and recognition of the union, after the contract expires in March next. Other demands were also formulated, one regarding the weighing of coal, and the check-off system.

#### IN FAVOR OF PENSIONS.

Secretary of the Treasury McVeagh will make the pension retirement system for government clerks a feature of his annual report to congress; he states: "I always have favored the contributory system of pensions, and favor it with the best interests of the clerks in view. The contributory system will be the easiest to have congress enact into legislation, as there is strong opposition in some quarters to any other pension system. Under a regular pension system the clerks would have to serve many years and reach old age before becoming beneficiaries. Under a contributory system the pensions would follow for their family when they leave the service. The greatest difficulty in the adoption of a pension system for clerks seems to be the division of opinion as to the best plan."



Delegates Convention

# EDITORIAL

## PETER W. COLLINS

### THE SECESSION MOVEMENT.

The attention of our members is called to the verbatim transcript of the minutes of the A. F. of L. Convention relative to our organization. It is indeed, a pleasure to note the emphatic attitude of the Federation with reference to secessionism.

In the next issue of The Worker we shall insert the verbatim addresses delivered at the Convention which so strongly repudiated secessionism and dual organizations.

It is to be hoped that our members will read carefully the matter relating to this subject for it demonstrates the fact that the American Labor Movement has tolerated dual organizations and secessionism for the last time and that a vigorous campaign from now on is to be encouraged by the American Federation of Labor, so that the workers of our country can understand the menace and the dangers of these secession movements.

The progress of our Brotherhood is going on apace and new members and new locals are being added to the ranks daily.

It is a constructive growth for real trade unionism and will mean much in the coming years for the progress of our organization and for the labor movement in general.

Our Brotherhood during the past four years has had to bear the brunt of a great fight against the pernicious influence of secessionism. This perniciousness showing itself in several ways; that of disloyalty, secessionism and dual organizations.

The fight of the Brotherhood has been one conducted on clean lines and it will be continued in that manner. The officers and members of our organization will never allow their self respect to be jeopardized by stooping to methods such as have been used by the leaders of the secession movement. Character counts in men as well as in organizations and the work of our organization has been one for character building.

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**A. F. OF L. CONVENTION.** The recent Convention of the American Federation of Labor at Atlanta was one of the most important in the history of the American Labor Movement.

The work of this Convention was clean cut and its attitude on dual organizations and secessionism was emphatic. Its renewal of confidence in the National Civic Federation and its vote in extending to the Trade Unionists in that body the confidence of the American Labor Movement was indeed an assurance of esteem and respect of the labor movement for these representatives of labor in the Civic Federation.

The Civic Federation has been a great factor in making possible a better understanding of the ideals, the hopes and aspirations of the Labor Movement and it has been the practical means of bringing together upon an equitable basis of the trade agreement, the employers and the employees.

It is hardly necessary to emphasize the value of the Civic Federation as a common ground upon which the men of labor may meet with those representing the employers and discuss the things that concern both.

It means a better understanding of what labor stands for and it means peace and progress in industry. It means a recognition of justice for the workers and the recognition of the organizations of labor.

It is, therefore, an added indication of the appreciation of the work of the Civic Federation by the Labor Movement of America, and the members of the trade unions of this country cannot be led into believing that the Civic Federation is inimical to the progress of Trade Unionism or the progress of the workers.

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Trade unionism will progress because it is founded on a solid foundation.

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An honest man never fears misrepresentation.

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In the doing of duty real men strengthen character.

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Some men trade character for popularity, yet they always get the short end of the bargain.

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A righteous cause never needs an untruth to aid its progress.

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Civic righteousness comes by co-operation.

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A just cause cannot be permanently injured by the acts of criminal followers.

---

Working for social justice is a service for all humanity. We can all co-operate.

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Great things are accomplished by combined effort.

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Some men search for truth with the small end of a microscope.

## ANOTHER SECEDER'S LIE NAILED

In the September number of the "Scandalizer" it states that the proceedings of our convention were printed at least seventy-five per cent scab, and union label No. 23 faked on the printing thereof.

The following letters from the E. J. Walsh Printing Co., and the International Typographical Union and an affidavit by John Connolly, speak for themselves and need no comment.

THE E. J. WALSH PRINTING CO.  
HIGH GRADE PRINTING, ENGRAVING, BINDING  
17 Elm Street, Rochester, New York

December 16, 1911.

Mr. Peter W. Collins, Sec'y I. B. E. W.,  
Springfield, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Collins—Enclosed you will find a letter which the I. T. U. organizer has sent me, also an affidavit (in duplicate) by the president of Typographical Union, No. 15, in reference to the printing of your proceedings. The affidavit is sent in duplicate so that you may send it to the proper department of the A. F. of L.

If this is not enough to satisfy the anti's Mr. Harry Sherman has assured me that he is willing to make a statement as to the conditions under which work is done by us.

Extending to you the compliments of the season, I am,

Fraternally yours,

Edward J. Walsh.

### INTERNATIONAL TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

OFFICE OF ORGANIZER

Rochester, N. Y., December 16, 1911.

Mr. Edward J. Walsh,  
17 Elm Street,  
Rochester, N. Y.

My Dear Walsh—My attention has been called to an article in the Electrical Worker, the official organ of the Seceders, which deals with the matter of printing done by you during the recent convention of the Electrical Workers in the city of Rochester.

In the first paragraph of the article I note that the Walsh Printing Company is credited with being capable of doing only press work. This statement, of course, is ridiculous, as everyone in Rochester knows who is familiar with the printing business.

Further down in the first paragraph reference is made to composition being done by the DuBois Press. While we have no label agreement with the DuBois Press, every printer working in the office were members of Typographical Union, No. 15, at the time the work in question was done, and, in fact, the same condition prevails at the present time.

I believe that in all fairness to yourself this statement of facts should be made public.

Fraternally yours,

John C. Daley,  
I. T. U. Representative.

State of New York, County of Monroe, ss:

John Connolly, being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he resides at No. 34 May Street, in the City of Rochester, N. Y., and that he now is, and was continuously since June 1st, 1911, President of Local Union, No 15, International Typographical Union.

Deponent further says that he is familiar with the labor conditions prevailing in the office and shop of the Walsh Printing Company during the Summer and Autumn of 1911.

That the said Walsh Printing Company now is, and has been during all of said times a union shop in every respect. I am also familiar with the conditions under which the printing for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was done by the Walsh Printing Company and that such conditions complied in every respect with the requirements of the International Typographical Union and Allied Trades

John Connolly.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of December, 1911.

(Seal)

Geo. R. VanAlstyne,  
Notary Public.

How much longer will any self-respecting Electrical Worker follow the leadership of men that make such unfounded, mean and contemptible statements?



## BRENNAN'S TALK TO LOCAL NO. 703

Brothers, I suppose you want to hear something from Rochester, the convention city.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have just adjourned one of the most successful, one of the most business-like and those who know say, the best convention the I. B. E. W. has held to date.

We had headquarters at the Whitcomb House one of the leading hotels of Rochester.

Our convention was held in what is known as convention hall, a building built and maintained for holding conventions only.

And I must say that Rochester was well chosen in that it is a swell city, up-to-date in every respect, and a city in which live some of the men who are high up in the American labor movement.

All the delegates had a good time between sessions of the convention excepting myself. I heard of the death of my brother Jim in St. Louis and I passed up the entertainment end of the convention.

But I want to say that I am glad for having had the opportunity of attending this convention, for the reason that so much has been said lately relative to the standing of the McNulty-Collins and Reid-Murphy organizations.

And I want it to sink into the hide, the flesh, the bone, yes, the very marrow of every man here, that I am thoroughly convinced of the integrity and general cleanliness of McNulty and Collins and every individual officer in the McNulty camp.

I examined the various court records that were sent by messenger from Cleveland to Rochester to allow the delegates to the convention to see for themselves who had stated facts relative as to which organization had been talking and acting fairly with reference to trying to amalgamate this Electrical Brotherhood.

Not only did these records show that the secessionist element were the ones, who were obstructing the way of the trial of the Geib suit, but various officers of the American Federation of Labor addressed the convention and, while they stood for amalgamation, they vehemently warned us that there could be no amalgamation of Electrical Workers without first settling the Geib case—which was brought by the secessionists against the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The A. F. of L. men pointed out that the future of the Electrical Workers depended on this trial namely:

That no man or set of men could again disrupt the organization by seceding and claiming to be the proper head or rightful officers of the organization.

Koveleski, who is on the law committee of the A. F. of L. body, and who has been delegated by A. F. of L. at various times during the past two years to try to bring about an amalgamation said:

"Gentlemen, you have made a clean fight. I know you have the question of the rights of union labor at heart. I have seen through this trouble. I'll admit it is deplorable and by all means honorable amalgamate. But, gentlemen, you must adjust for all time this present difficulty by establishing a precedent at law. You must settle at law (in the courts) as soon as possible the question of who has the right to use the seal of your Brotherhood. This in itself is important, but there are many other things.

"Men, do not allow any clique or any man to pull away from your organization over night, and file a suit tying up your funds indefinitely—by resorting to legal technicalities.

"But gentlemen, this case is about to be tried on its merits at Cleveland and let it be tried."

Now, brothers, I'll have the reports of President McNulty to this eleventh biennial convention of Electrical Workers at Rochester, which is now in the hands of the printers, here in about a week. It will speak for itself.

It is a masterful document, presented in unmistakable English the questions at issue, and I must say for this man McNulty that to my humble opinion he is one of the brightest, yea, I dare say, the brightest light, and the brightest hope, now leading in the American labor movement.

And I want to add just a word as to Collins and Noonan.

This man Collins is a very efficient officer. Don't fail to read his report, showing the condition of this organization in the face of the obstacles he's had to combat on account of this split.

As an orator William Jennings Bryan pales into nothingness when compared to Collins, indeed I've heard most of the great orators of the day, but I can't figure any of them as having anything on Peter W. Collins, the I. B. E. W. man from Boston.

And, strange as it may seem, Collins is a very modest man. He has a remarkable habit of standing for truth and fair dealing.

In all, brothers, you can point to Collins, who has been put to the test, especially in these last two years, as a man we really owe homage.

But I assure you that he does not take himself too seriously. He feels that the convention greatly honored him in again making him its secretary.

I need not go into the character of James P. Noonan, your first vice president, because he went to international office from this section. You all know him and you know as a man strictly honest, thoroughly capable, and a man who is going to do much for the Brotherhood in the next two years.

I call to your attention the new constitution, which after it has been passed upon by the local unions, will become effective March 1912, and has many new and good features, one of them being the organization of all female help employed in the manufacture of electrical appliances.

I expect to receive a bound copy of convention proceedings inside of ten days, which with the secretary's report and president's report will give you all of the subject matter.

I want to state that the Reid faction (so-called) headquarters was on the next block, three hundred feet away and the Reid delegates were mostly all calling for amalgamation, and I believe that many of them were sincere in asking for amalgamation, but at the last moment they seemed to be thoroughly in the hands of the secession leaders that they could do nothing to help themselves.

A few of the secessionists, those who reside in St. Louis, profess to be elated. They say they won a victory over the McNulty bunch at Rochester. They talk this way when they meet men not posted on the situation.

Well, if they've won anything over the protest of our organization I'll be damned.

Their leaders know that they must lose out. They don't want this suit at Cleveland tried, at least not yet. Their sole aim as I see it, is to organize as many men, electrical workers or not electrical workers, to disrupt electrical organizations all over the country. Their idea in doing this, as I see it, is to create the impression at Cleveland that the Electrical Workers of the country are in a quandary—that there is no regular head of the organization, that they have thrown McNulty out, and that the local unions, especially the seceders, are entitled to this money tied up in Cleveland.

They want this money distributed, but they reckoned wrongly somewhere.

Brothers, the Reid organization in this vicinity has ridiculed many times the A. F. of L. The rank and file at St. Louis will tell you they don't need the A. F. of

L. to do business. If you know anything about the union labor movement you all know that to have a successful organization you must be affiliated with the A. F. of L.

And you don't want to pay dues simply to be paying dues. You want the country at large to know that you are not in any fight alone, as one union, that you have got one gigantic organization behind you morally and financially who stand for your rights as co-workers.

Read Mr. Harris' address to our eleventh biennial at Rochester, which appears in our convention proceedings. Mr. Harris is president of the New York State Federation of Labor. He stopped off on his way home from Oswego. He addressed us at Rochester, fresh from his duties as an A. F. of L. officer at Oswego, where they held their State convention. He had no doubt, in his mind at this time, the contemplation of the Electrical Workers' trouble. Read what he says took place in Albany, N. Y., on the capitol building there, which is only a very infinitesimal part of what he will tell you should you meet him personally.

I predict, brothers, that most of the Electrical Workers in the seceders organization will, before the calling of the next convention, come over to our ranks. They can't stand this game much longer. In fact they have already started to come over to the McNulty organization.

Now, just a word as to a remark passed here tonight by one of our new members, namely, "How are we to know which is the bona fide organization. Is it the one headed by Reid or is it the one headed by McNulty?"

Well, I know it isn't necessary for me to answer this question for most of you. But for the benefit of the new members, who may not have thought, that we are in fact a part of one great international union—the A. F. of L.

To make it more simple I will put it this way: Suppose we look across the street a moment. We have there, as you know, the union trades assembly, representing the labor union interests of this city. Now we'll say one of the unions who sends delegates there for some reason or other secedes or has some other difficulty there, what does this assembly do about it? They put it up to the international officers of the A. F. of L. for adjudication and then in turn abide by the law (constitution) as handed down by the organization. And they must obey this law if they believe in organization and they do abide by it.

Therefore, brothers, the place to get the information relative to the Electrical Workers split is the international officers of the A. F. of L. Each one of you, for instance, has made a contract by taking

an obligation to live up to this law. I want to say to the new members who have come from the secessionists that you have taken the step which will eventually settle this controversy.

Come into this organization that you took an obligation for. Stand by your obligation. Guard it zealously. If we have any transgressors apply our laws. Don't go out on the outside and hire corporation attorneys and expect them to help you. If you do you are undermining the fundamental principles of trade unionism.

While at Rochester I was buttonholed on the street by one of the secession leaders. He asked me to go into our convention and vote for a scheme to amalgamate the Electrical Workers, a scheme that was to be submitted by the seceders. He prefaced his remarks by admonishing me of my obligation that I took on going into the I. B. E. W. union.

I said: "Brother, do you believe in an obligation?" He said, "Sure, we must stand together." I said, "Brother, how long have you been a union Electrical Worker?" He answered, "About ten years." I then answered, "Then, Brother, you must have forgotten the obligation you took when you went into the I. B. E. W. You tell me to live up to my obliga-

tion. I say to you. If you want to live up to your obligation come back into our organization and live up to the obligation you swore you would live up to."

As a last word tonight, boys, I want to add that the I. B. E. W., as officered by McNulty-Collins-Noonan, etc., is in a splendid condition from every standpoint, which is due in my opinion to the executive ability of your international officers.

And in the coming year, after the adoption of your new constitution, I believe much good will be accomplished for the further benefit of our future organization. I believe that with three international vice presidents, who are wide awake, such as I believe G. M. Bugniazet, Jas. P. Noonan and L. C. Grasser to be, about ninety per cent of the seceders will come back before the calling of our next convention.

I believe that our neighbors over at St. Louis will insist on coming back to the bona fide Electrical Workers organization.

Brothers, I also want to state that I thought so much of the delegates to this convention that I brought four copies of a photograph (18x24) of the delegates taken at Rochester. I am going to distribute them to our various labor affiliations in this city.

## "DEMANDS OF LABOR"

### Editorial Comment in Leading Washington Newspaper Favorable to Recommendations of Federation's President

The Washington Herald, commenting on the annual report of President Gompers, editorially has this to say: "The demands made by organized labor, as set forth in the annual report of President Gompers, submitted at Atlanta convention, are neither novel nor radical. They have to do, in the main, with reforms for which labor has been struggling for some years. The initiative and referendum and the recall, for instance, have been advocated by the working classes as a desirable political system, while the restriction of immigration and the passage of the so-called anti-injunction bills have also been constantly urged. The appeal for uniform laws for the protection of life and health in factory buildings is one that ought to meet with prompt response from legislators everywhere. Already there has been much progress in this direction, recent terrible calamities having awakened the public conscience in regard to conditions which unfortunately exist. There is also good foundation for the request for the

creation of a Federal department devoted solely to matters affecting labor, while laws for the further restriction of convict labor are already under consideration in many Commonwealths. As pointed out in The Washington Herald some days ago, the disclosures regarding the treatment of convicts in the Richmond penitentiary, and the fact that the manufacture of shirt waists and blouses by private firms is now impossible in Missouri, owing to the use of convict labor, make the situation one deserving of most serious consideration. One feature of Mr. Gompers' report has especial interest in this city. It deals with the executive order which denies government employes the right of petition to Congress, and thus prevents them from taking active steps in securing a betterment of their condition. In asking the repeal of this order, the Federation of Labor undoubtedly voices the desire of a very large number of government employes."

# General Labor News

## LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

### Organized Labor Leads the State of Maine to Victory in the Battle for Direct Primaries

Governor Plaisted of Maine, in an address delivered at Lewiston, Sept. 4 said: "Organized labor has given to the State of Maine her Australian ballot law, organized labor has given to the State of Maine her initiative and referendum, and on Sept. 12 organized labor will give to the State of Maine a primary election law."

The words of the governor were a historic declaration and proved prophetic, for, on Sept. 12 the citizens of Maine, led by organized labor, declared for direct primaries by a vote of 55,840 to 17,751.

In 1891 the battle for the establishment of the Australian ballot system was begun by organized labor. It ended in a partial victory, which was made complete in 1893 by the establishment of the present law. Organized labor was not recognized as a political power then and the number of its adherents was not great, but they had the moral courage and the tenacity that enables men to surmount great barriers and they gained the day.

In 1908 organized labor, represented by the Maine Federation of Labor began the memorable struggle for the initiative and

the referendum. Resolutions had been passed at the convention of the State body declaring for the system and they were followed by a campaign that will never be forgotten in Maine. The support of the State Grange was asked and given and every nook and corner of the State was canvassed. The American Federation of Labor was requested to send representatives into the state and did so. The foes of organized labor and of progress became perniciously active. Barrels of money were used, and wagon loads of literature were scattered all over the state denouncing the system. Daily newspapers published columns of adverse criticisms and political orators came from different parts of the country, and made fervid appeals to the voters to defeat the proposition at the ballot box.

When the smoke of battle cleared away it was found that organized labor and her allies had won a great victory. The people by an overwhelming majority had declared in favor of the initiative and referendum.

The Maine Federation of Labor has won the confidence of the citizens of the state and is now making preparations to initiate other beneficent reforms.

### TO PENSION LABORERS.

#### Boston First City in United States to Retire City Laborers on Half Pay After 60 Years of Age.

The laborers' pension act which Boston, Mass., will put into operation March 1, 1912, is the first instance of a municipality in America providing retirement with half pay to its laborers. There has been a persistent effort made for years to establish this pension or a similar one. Power was conferred by the last legislature to inaugurate such a law in Boston, the salient portions of which are as follows: "(1) There shall be a retirement board for the laborers employed by the city of Boston consisting of the mayor, the auditor and the treasurer of the city, who shall discharge

the duties hereby imposed upon them without additional compensation. (2) Any laborer employed by the City of Boston, who has reached the age of 60 years, and who has been in the service of the city for a period of not less than 25 years, and who is physically incapacitated, shall, at his request, and with the approval of the retirement board, be retired from service, and shall receive for the remainder of his life an annual pension equal to one-half the compensation which he received during the last year of his service for the city. It shall be the duty of said board to retire any laborer in the service of the city who has reached the age of 70 years and has served the city for a period of not less than 25 years." Fewer than 40 come under the compulsory retirement provision, while the total number eligible to pension is 177.

## "THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS"

**Small Children Dragged to Jail in Muscatine, Iowa, Because  
They Dared to Remonstrate With Strike Breakers**

A little blue-eyed maiden, who had scarce seen thirteen summers was dragged to jail in Muscatine, Ia., on October 7, and was confined in a cell for four hours because she had dared to remonstrate with strike breakers who were assisting the employers in their effort to subdue the workers and defeat the ends of human justice.

Young as she was the little lass had had an acquaintance with misery and privation. She knew that the union made it possible for children to be "just kids" for a little while; she knew that it gave them a season for childish sports; a chance to go to school, and an opportunity to develop into strong, active men and women. And because she knew all that the little lass wanted to help the union to win its fight for better conditions. She knew that her fare was frugal, and that her home lacked many of the comforts that should have obtained there; she knew that her people were overworked, underpaid and insufficiently fed, and because she knew the union had a remedy for all of these evils she did what she could to forward its cause by attempting to persuade strike-breakers to line up with their fellow workers and help them in their battle for higher wages, more food, brighter homes and better conditions.

And for doing this, stalwart creatures in the forms of men seized her and dragged her to jail like a common criminal, and locked her in a cell. To her the jail was a place of torment, and the cell as great a horror as the "Black Hole of Calcutta." Yet for hours this poor little mite was confined in its, to her, terrible environments, sobbing as if her heart would break and crying for mother. And this despite the fact that the law governing juveniles provides that they shall not be detained in any jail or station house without an immediate trial.

On the same day, three other children, one of them a trembling mite of a boy, were dragged to jail and confined in a cell for the same terrible offense committed against society by the little lass. Stern and stalwart officers of the law had made an onslaught on the innocents on the demand of the employers and strike-breakers, while citizens looked on in horror and amazement and asked each other the question: "Have the employers grown so desperate that they are warring on infants?"

Later, the little lass and her three childish companions stood weeping and trembling in court, and listened to a dignified judge as he sternly rebuked them and tried to impress upon them the enormity of their crime. He told them if they dared to repeat the offense, in other words, if they dared again to try and assist their fathers, mothers, sisters or brothers in their struggle for justice he would send them to the reform school. He then set them at liberty and they were permitted to return to their anxious and outraged kinfolk.

The button workers of Muscatine are displaying a spirit of determination and self-sacrifice that has gained the admiration of their fellow toilers all over the land. Daily, men and women and youths and misses are pounced upon by misrepresentatives of the law and dragged to jail. Thugs and strong arm men assault them with impunity and the misrepresentatives of the law are blind. But the factories are not producing and will not until the just demands of the workers are conceded.

A commissary has been established, carloads of provisions are being sent into the city and the toilers of the land will see to it that their brothers and sisters in Muscatine are supplied with the necessities of life.

### A GREAT EMPLOYER.

Uncle Sam probably employs more people than any other employer or state in the world. On his pay roll at the present time are 222,278 men and women protected by civil service regulations. Number of exceptions, 59,702. Number not under civil service, 64,892, number appointed by the president, 9,525; workers on the Panama canal, 28,191; total, 384,088.

### A STUDY IN PRODUCTION.

The United States census bureau, in a bulletin just issued, gives statistical information relative to the manufacture of agricultural implements during the five years 1904 to 1909. It shows that the increase in the value of implements during the period mentioned was over \$34,000,000, the increased number of employes 5,000, while the additional labor cost was only \$6,000,000.

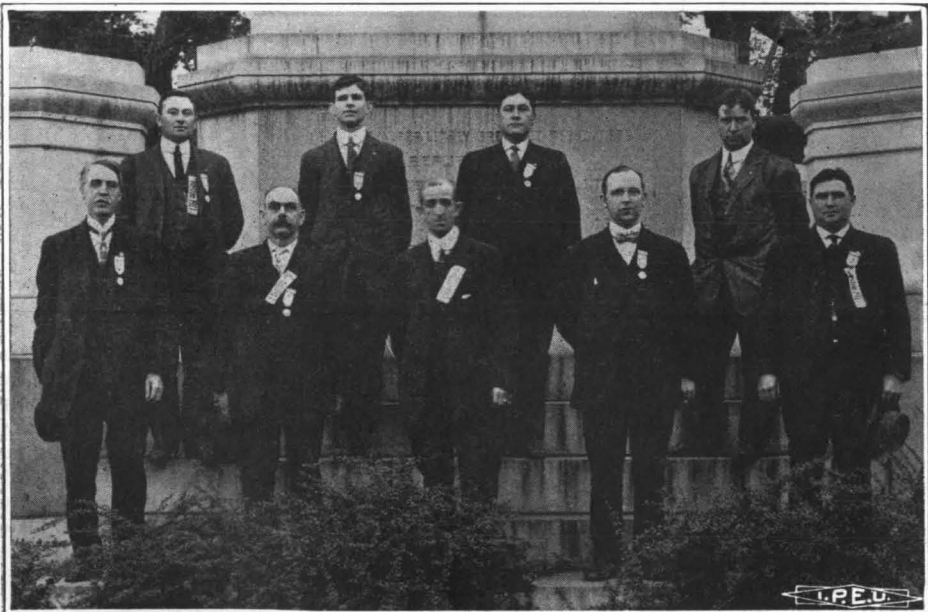
## THE ROOT EVIL

### Employers in the Future Will Treat With the Employed in the Spirit of Equality

Commenting editorially on the recent convention of the Trade Union Congress at New Castle, England, Reynolds' Newspaper has this to say:

"The hopeful element in the present situation is the fact that the matters in dispute are being debated by two public bodies, the Trade Union Congress and the Royal Commission, and it will be strange, indeed, if out of the airing of grievances and clashing of opinions something like a permanent solution of the labor problem is not reached. For one thing, in future there will be attempts on the part of the masters to treat with the men in the spirit of equality. The root evil in the industrial world has been the attempt of the capitalists to import into the labor arena the old feudal spirit of the landed classes. In the early days of industry this spirit no doubt had its good side, but when huge factories began to rise, when men were congregated in masses, the old personal tie between masters and men was broken. Feudalism, as Arnold Toynbee has well said, though it lingers in a few country places, has virtually died out of trade. The employer cannot offer, and the workmen cannot

accept, the old relation of protection and dependence. Unfortunately the desire to keep the worker in dependence still lingers in the industrial world, and to this must be attributed the friction which culminated in the recent strikes. In his work on Labor, George Howell puts the situation in a nutshell as follows: "The whole business of the world is called on by a system of bargaining and competition. The trader seeks to protect himself by all the means in his power against competitor and consumer alike. He is the seller, and he fixes the price of his commodity, subject to modification, at his own sweet will or preforce as the case may be. The workman is the seller of his labor; he seeks at least a voice in fixing its value or its price. The employer, who is the buyer, has always regarded this as monstrous; he, the buyer, must fix the price and its condition." This attempt at despotic dictation, this attempt to bring into the labor world the old aristocratic relations of lord and serf, has broken down, and the outcome is a Royal Commission to consider the best way of adjusting differences so that capital and labor may work in harmony."



New England Delegation

## GOOD JUDGMENT RECOGNIZED

### Great Reform Measures Advocated by the American Federation of Labor Becoming Operative

The recent election in California has demonstrated beyond the peradventure of a doubt, that the judgment of the American Federation of Labor in the matter of great reforms has been excellent and praiseworthy. Two of the great measures, Woman Suffrage and the Initiative and the Referendum, just made law by the voice of the people of California have been energetically supported by organized labor for many years, and it is to the credit of the American Federation of Labor that it initiated the national movement for the latter reform.

The last number of the Weekly News Letter told of the great victory for the Initiative and the Referendum and the Recall in California. It now records a victory for Woman Suffrage. The following press message tells the story: "San Francisco, Cal. California has voted to enfranchise her women.

"With the votes all but counted in the golden state, the suffrage amendment is assured of a majority of 1,500 votes, and the final returns may make the figures higher than that.

"It was a day of wild exultation throughout the state. The women had snatched victory out of defeat, and they were beside themselves with joy. Particularly in San Francisco, where the suffrage amendment had been defeated by a majority of nearly 14,000 votes, was the spirit of rejoicing let loose in all its vigor and intensity.

"Women embraced and kissed one another indiscriminately, and all personal and sectional difficulties were forgotten in the glad word that suffrage had won.

"Club women, college women, working women, and just plain women joined hands and hearts in one great happy

throng and sang and shouted the California verdict so long and lustily that it must have been heard around the world. Telegrams and cablegrams, frantically penned by excited fingers, were sent chasing over the wires to all parts of the globe informing men and women that California had decided in favor for votes for women.

"On the night of election the devoted workers in the cause of equal suffrage had gone to bed with the somber feeling that their brave battle had been lost.

"The mental and physical strain to which the suffragists had been subjected during forty-eight hours was more than human strength could withstand. Within that time they had been defeated and counted out, had been called back into the ring for more drubbing and fought along on their knees for a whole day, had staggered up under their second wind, had slowly recovered their strength with which to hold their adversary at a standstill; finally with black defeat and gray doubt behind them, they had emerged big and strong in the clear, white light of victory."

In 1890 the American Federation of Labor endorsed Woman Suffrage, the endorsement of the Initiative and the Referendum followed in 1892, and in 1893 the Postal Savings bank received the stamp of its approval. The latter measure has now been adopted by the national government, while the states are wheeling into line for the other two great measures. The agitation for all three measures has been pressed without a let up for years, and organized labor can be justly proud in the part it has played in bringing them into operation.

### BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY CARMEN.

The Brotherhood of Railway Carmen have just negotiated a settlement with the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton railroad, by which their general working conditions have been improved, with an increase of wages averaging 1 1-2 cents per hour.

On the Alabama and Vicksburg railroad they secured time and one-half for overtime and an increase of two cents per hour for Carmen and one cent per hour increase for inspectors.

### MIDSUMMER IMMIGRATION.

The Department of Commerce and Labor reports in its monthly bulletin the number of aliens landing at the various ports, together with sex and nationality. The bulletin gives the number of immigrants for the month of July as 51,737, males 29,257, females 22,480. In the same month the Immigration Bureau debarred for cause 808 males, 297 females. For the fiscal year from July 1910 to June 1911, the total of 878,587 aliens were admitted of which 570,057 were males and 308,530 females.

## OLD AND EFFICIENT

**The Boston Traveller Declares That the United States Government is  
Notoriously Heartless With Its Departmental Employees**

Referring to an incident in the Boston postoffice, when sixteen veteran letter carriers were informed that their pay would be reduced, the Boston Traveller, in an editorial, has this to say:

"The United States government, while generous with its soldiers and sailors is notoriously heartless with its departmental employees.

"A fresh instance of heartlessness is shown in a current development in the Boston postoffice. Sixteen veteran carriers are to be reduced in pay, because, worn out with long and faithful service, they have lost some of their efficiency.

"The experience of one of these men in particular shows the workings of the system. Charles F. West is over 70 years old. He has been a mail carrier for fifty-two years—a longer period of service than that of any other letter carrier in the United States. It might have been supposed that a wise and grateful government would reward such a man fittingly for service of such unexampled length and fidelity, that it would enable him to spend his declining years in honor and ease, doing his work as usual if he was able and willing to stay in the harness, and amply provided for if he dropped out.

"Not so, however. After more than half a century of work for meager pay, which at its highest has only been \$1.

200 a year, Charles F. West is informed that his salary is to be reduced to \$1,100. And he must acquiesce. He has the alternative of resigning, to be sure; but in that case it would be without means of subsistence, for the postoffice department makes no provision for the pensioning of aged or disabled employees.

"The other fifteen carriers are about in the same plight. They are all old, they have all served the government long and faithfully, and now their salaries are to be cut.

"There is no discrimination intended against these men; it is all a matter of technical "grading" of departmental red tape. Being no longer able to do "first class" work, they are replaced by younger men, and as their new work is supposed to call for less efficiency, their pay is reduced accordingly

"It is proper to give to the veterans easier work, but their reduction in pay can hardly be justified by any moral rule or business code, public or private.

"When practically every veteran soldier who enlisted in the Civil War draws a pension, whether he saw service or not, it seems strange that the government has yet made no provisions for taking care of its veteran soldiers of peace."

### AUSTRIAN DEMONSTRATION.

Carlsbad, Austria itself one of the most expensive places to live in Europe, has keenly felt the increased cost of living. A general shortage of crops has caused a big rise in prices of the common necessities. Just recently a large but orderly demonstration against the price of foodstuffs was made. Laboring people, between four and five thousand, mostly from the china factories near the city—and their wives—marched in a body to the court house and presented a formal protest against the high prices. As a result, the city council ordered five carloads of potatoes from an adjacent town, and before the arrival of the shipment, the entire amount was sold at the rate of \$1.62 per 100 kilos (220.46 pounds), while the regular market price was \$2.75 to \$3.00. The council is contemplating shipping other classes of food into the city and selling at actual cost, to relieve the present pressure.

### AUSTIN DAM.

If appearances count for anything, it looks as if some one would have to pay a heavy penalty for the Austin dam tragedy. An investigation has practically shown that the tragedy was not an act of Providence, in the sense that it was unavoidable. It is claimed that the dam was constructed in a faulty fashion, and that its foundation was restricted ten feet less than the original plans contemplated, and that the bed rock key was omitted, and even after the weakness of the structure had become apparent, nothing was done toward making it safe. It is alleged that up to the present time there has been a preponderance of evidence to the effect that the accident was due to criminal negligence. It is the duty of the State of Pennsylvania to make sure that the guilty persons are punished and that the hundreds of persons at Austin who have been made homeless and whose families have been destroyed are given justice.



## A REAL "OPEN SHOP"

**In Palestine, Where Organization Among the Workers is Unknown, a Stone Cutter Gets From 42 to 94 Cents a Day**

The following extract from the Daily Consular and Trade Reports, issued by the United States government is submitted to the attention of exponents of the "open shop" and to workmen who desire to live in a land where the "open shop" is in full swing and where all are "free and independent workmen."

"The following daily wages are paid in Jerusalem: Unskilled labor, 20 to 40 cents; carpenters, 52 cents to \$1.05; masons as high as \$1.60; stonecutters 42 to 94 cents.

"A complete costume of a poor Jerusalem native costs about \$3.80; a peasant's costume is more expensive and averages \$12. Many city natives have adopted European costume, and ready made suits of clothes can be bought here for \$6, and suits made to order for \$12 or less.

"The following particulars, obtained from natives themselves, give an idea of the cost of living. None of the following is in the class of very poor people, but they may be taken as representatives of the average working class, and who may be said to be prosperous in their line.

"A shoeblack—He has a family of five besides himself, mother, sister, young

brother, wife and baby. They live in two rooms and kitchen paying therefor \$28 a year. They use 5 rotls of flour a week, at 20c a rotl (rotl equals 6 1-3 pounds), and buy 3 or 4 okiehs (okieh equals about one-half pound) of meat once a week. The entire weekly expenses count up \$3.86, including rent and clothes. The latter cost for the entire family about \$23.16 a year.

"A stone mason—he has 11 in his family, 9 children, wife and himself—residing in two rooms and a small kitchen, rental value \$23.16. The daily expenditure for food is about 60c. The mason receives 77c to 96c a day and finds employment about three-fourths of the year.

"A clerk in a bank—his family consists of a mother and sister. They live in a small house and keep a servant. The clerk expends \$115.80 for schooling for his sister, while he dresses well in European style. His yearly expenses are \$579 and he receives \$463.20 yearly as salary and has a small income from some property."

The report does not tell the amount of the wages received by the servant in this family. We leave the exponents of the "open shop" to surmise how much he or she does get.

### FEDERATION SUCCESS.

**A Few of the Results Accomplished by Means of Federating the Mechanical Trades on Various Railroad Systems.**

The federated shop trades on the Canadian Pacific railroad recently made a new contract with the company which gave the Blacksmith and Machinists a uniform increase of three cents per hour; the other trades getting from two to three cents. The 9 hour day was extended to all shop trades. No strike.

Similar results were obtained by the shop trades of the Canadian Northern railway.

The federated shop trades on the Norfolk and Western R. R., secured a new contract with an increase of 1 1-2 cents per hour for all mechanics and helpers. No strike.

The federated trades won a flat increase of two cents per hour and a standard 9 hour day on the Georgia, Florida and Alabama R. R., after withdrawing from service for ten days.

The federated trades on the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf R. R. concluded a splendid agreement with the company covering all classes of mechanical employment; the scale being, machinists, coppersmiths, boilermakers and blacksmiths, 40 cents per hour; flangers get 42 1-2 cents per hour; patternmakers get 37 1-2 cents; car workers and painters 25 to 35 cents; helpers, 15 cents to 21 cents per hour. No strike.

### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Fatal railway accidents continue in the same old ratio. The engineer and fireman of a St. Louis & San Francisco passenger train at Ft. Scott, Kansas, were recently killed by the explosion of the boiler. A double-header freight train on the Norfolk & Western killed a section hand and seriously wounded several others. An engineer on the Southern Railway was killed and several trainmen and passengers injured. A trackwalker has been killed on the Pennsylvania road near Frankford, Pa., and another man run down by an electric car at Reading.

## OHIO PROGRESSIVE STATE.

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**Secretary of State Federation of Labor  
Asserts Coming Constitutional Con-  
vention Will Adopt Up-to-  
Date Constitution.**

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The secretary of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, Harry D. Thomas, is authority for the statement that Ohio is in the list of progressive states; an overwhelming majority of the delegates to the constitutional convention being pledged to the initiative and referendum, with a splendid opportunity of incorporating the recall. About a dozen union men have been elected as delegates, four having been elected from the city of Cleveland and the others from different portions of the State. Messrs. Farrell of the Waiters, Davio of the Lathers, Stillwell of the Painters, and Thomas of the Amalgamated Carpenters, being the Cleveland delegates. Great credit is due the Cleveland unionists in securing the election of men to represent them in the coming convention.

## NEW POSTAL RULING.

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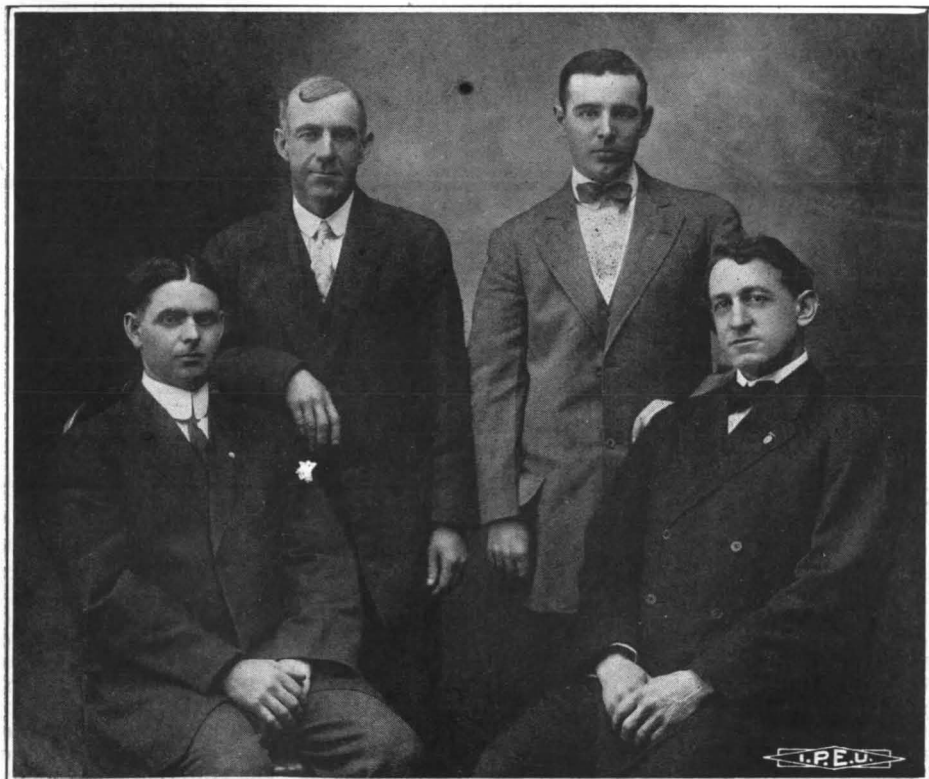
A new ruling by Postmaster General Hitchcock recently issued, is of interest to all trade unions having official publications. This latest ruling grants a full year as the period in which the publications are entitled to the second class privilege after subscriptions have expired. This action rescinds such existing rules providing for varying periods of acceptance, ranging from three months to a year, according to the frequency with which the publication is issued. The new regulation gives publishers greater opportunity to secure renewal of subscriptions.

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**STRIKERS MEET IN CHURCH.**

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The strikers on the Illinois Central railroad at Jackson, Tenn., were proffered and accepted the First Baptist church in which to hold a mass meeting recently. Addresses were made by prominent labor men and the auditorium was packed and the auditors enthusiastic.



Committee of Management, Local 86

## FIGHT ON CIVIC FEDERATION LOST

The much heralded fight against the officers of the American Federation of Labor who are members of the National Civic Federation has taken place. Since the United Mine Workers in convention amended their constitution prohibiting any member of the Mine Workers from becoming a member of the National Civic Federation, and the withdrawal of John Mitchell from the trade agreement department of the National Civic Federation as the result of the action of the Miners' convention the Socialists have been actively engaged in an effort to procure sufficient strength to pass a resolution at the Atlanta convention prohibiting officers of the American Federation of Labor from holding membership in the National Civic Federation. The Miners' delegation to the American Federation of Labor came instructed to make an effort to have the convention take similar action as did the Miners. This gave the Socialists a nucleus of 2,504 votes to start with. Three resolutions were introduced, all being practically in the same tenor, seeking to prohibit officers of the Federation from becoming members of the National Civic Federation, or continuing membership therein. These resolutions were referred to the Resolutions Committee which made an exhaustive investigation in an effort to discover whether there was any valid reason why the resolutions should be passed. Finding none, the Reso-

lutions Committee reported unfavorably. In the discussion which followed Duncan McDonald, Tom Lewis and E. S. McCullough of the Miners, and Max Hayes spoke against the adoption of the report of the committee, while Denis Hayes, John Mitchell, James O'Connell, W. B. Wilson, James M. Lynch, John Walker, W. D. Mahon, T. W. McCullough of Typographical union, Tim Healy and President Gompers spoke in favor of the adoption of the report of the committee. While the Miners' delegation was instructed to vote for the resolution and did vote for it, yet John Mitchell and W. B. Wilson spoke in favor of the adoption of the committee's report, although stating that they would be compelled to vote against it owing to the instructions from their organization. In his speech John Mitchell made the charge that the convention of the Miners which amended the constitution forbidding membership in the National Civic Federation had been "packed" by permitting men to act as delegates who were not entitled to sit as such; that credentials were illegally issued, and stated that he was prepared to produce the proof. Delegate Walker of the Miners, substantiated the charges made by Delegate John Mitchell. Almost the entire day was consumed in the debate upon this question and when roll call was had the vote stood: In favor of the report of the committee, 11,851; opposed, 4,924.

### WOMEN ARE VICTORS.

**Five Hundred Dressmakers Battle for Four Weeks, Gain Increased Wage Scale and Shorter Hours.**

Facing determined opposition, and fighting without a murmur, 500 women in Brownsville have gained a signal victory over their employers. The employers were banded together by a strong organization and laughed at and treated with derision the demands of the women for a higher wage scale and a shorter work day. The women, too, were members of an organization, Local No. 2, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and when the battle ended their union was intact, while the association of the employers was shattered to pieces.

Four weeks the struggle for better conditions waged, and the workers showed a spirit of determination that discouraged

the employers to such an extent that some of them deserted their organization and made terms with their employees. Still, the employers made great efforts to line up and continue the battle, but the workers kept on with a grim determination and one by one the manufacturers dropped out of the association until it became too weak to offer further resistance. When the final surrender came the employers were without an organization, and the labor organization had compelled them to concede every demand made by its members.

In Brownsville the ladies' tailors and dressmakers will now work fifty instead of fifty-four hours a week. Their wages will be increased 10 per cent and the employers have learned that the demands of women, protected by a labor organization, must be taken seriously and treated with respect. The international union rendered valuable assistance in the fight for better conditions.

## MORE ABOUT THE COURTS

### The Judiciary as Well as the Legislatures and Executives Must Minister to the People

Under the caption, "The Alternative to Popular Control of the Judiciary" the Boston Common says: "Democracy is either a figure of speech or a great truth. Those who would have judges exempt from democratic control cannot believe profoundly in democracy's intrinsic worth.

"The democratic theory of government assumes that a free and intelligent people, who are self-governing, will quickly perceive and correct their own mistakes. History shows that when they really have been self-governing, when their will has not been frustrated or obstructed by special interests or privileged groups, this assumption has proved well founded.

"Opponents of the election and recall of judges say that the people must be safeguarded against themselves; that the people are prone to frenzy and need checks and keepers. But is any restraint so good as self-restraint? Is it not the best way to develop self-restraint to let it grow with practice?

"A people who find that recalling a just judge for bravely doing his duty does not promote their welfare will learn not to use the recall on that kind of judge, but to reserve it for judges who usurp authority, toady to privilege or otherwise betray the common weal. Who is wiser than the common wisdom?

"There is no way by which the people can permanently be kept from auditing the services of judges. In this country they are the source of power. They make constitutions. There is among them the determination, firm and as we believe growing, that the judiciary, as well as the legislatures and executives, shall minister to their welfare. They will not be content to elect lawmakers and law enforcers pledged to certain policies only to have those policies defeated by judicial construction.

"The alternative to popular control of judges is not the status quo; it is revolution."

### TWO MORE VICTORIES.

#### The Ladies' Garment Workers Continue to Make Splendid Progress, But They Have to Fight Every Inch of the Way.

After a struggle which lasted four weeks the Dressmakers' Local No. 72 of Brownsville, N. Y., was settled with complete victory for the workers. They reduced the working hours from 54 to 50 and obtained a 10 per cent increase in wages.

Of course, the employers were organized and conducted the fight against the union, but during the strike some of the employers deserted the association and granted the demands of the strikers. The determination of the strikers finally compelled the masters to leave the association one by one.

Victory number 2 was won by the Cloakmakers of Toronto, Ontario, in their strike at the Gordon McKay Company's factory. After a struggle of 11 weeks the employers realized the strikers could not be defeated, so they transferred their cloak department to another concern. The first thing the new firm did was to settle with the union, conceding every demand that had been made. The Cloakmakers consider this a double victory because they not only secured new conditions, but they won over a new concern.

### BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD CLERKS.

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks have entered into a very satisfactory agreement with the Pere Marquette R. R., regulating working conditions, including hours, vacations, leaves of absence, overtime, promotions and wages. This success came partially as a result of the Federation movement among railroad employees.

The members of the B. of R. C. are on strike at East St. Louis and Dupon, Illinois, on the St. Louis and Iron Mountain R. R. and the Illinois Central and Terminal association of St. Louis, because of discrimination against members of the Brotherhood. The Clerks are also on strike on the Illinois Central R. R. in connection with the federated movement.

### STEEL CARS SAVE LIVES.

That passengers on the Seaboard Air lines, Florida limited, wrecked at Merry Oaks, N. C., recently, with 18 injured, escaped more serious casualties, has been pronounced a miracle. Steel cars were responsible for the saving of lives, the entire train except the engine being derailed. This demonstrates that the contention of the postal employees for steel cars is, indeed, well founded.

## BRUTALITY

### Southern Pacific Official Denies Water to Striker's Wife and Babe, Even Though Payment Was Offered

According to "The Voice of the People," published in Tucson, Ariz., the Southern Pacific officials are indeed desperate and have resorted to exceedingly brutal tactics, that the strikers on the system may be crushed. The paper states: Even a digger Indian or a Papago buck on the war path, will turn over a rock and allow a squaw with a new born pappoose the first pick of the fat grubs which may be found beneath it, but it has remained for an official of the Southern Pacific railroad, Superintendent J. H. Dyer, of the Tucson division, which extends from El Paso to Yuma, to refuse a drink of water to a striker's wife with a new born babe at her breast. The babe was only three days old when the order was issued by the railroad superintendent, and on account of the order the wife of W. E. Stewart, a striking boilermaker, at Gila Bend, Arizona, out in the desert, miles from civilization, is without water for the nurse to wash the linen, which the simplest demands of sanitation, to say nothing of civilization, require in such cases. There are two kinds of water at Gila Bend—the water which the engines must use—it eats the flues out of boilers with a celerity which requires a force of men at the round house to make what are called "running repairs" on the locomotives, and W. E. Stewart was one of these men. The other water is drinking

water, which is brought in a water car from Sentinel. Since the strike Stewart has been standing with the other mechanics of the Federation at his post, the little semi-oasis of the desert about half way between Tucson and Yuma. On November 7, Superintendent Dyer, angered and furious at the unbreakable lines of the shopmen who would not return to work until the grievances are adjusted, issued his order to cut off the water from all strikers at Gila Bend. The secretary of the Tucson branch of the Federation received a wire from Stewart telling of the action and asking legal counsel. A. A. Worsley, the attorney for the Federation, notified Stewart by wire, to tender pay for the water. Stewart obeyed and money was offered by his father-in-law, while Stewart held his three days old babe in his arms and looked into the eyes of his suffering wife, unable to offer her a drink of water which she craved, but the money was refused by the round house foreman, Allgodd, who was acting under Dyer's orders. Kindly disposed women neighbors, whose husbands are still in the railroad service in other departments than that affected by the strike, have seen to it that enough water to drink has been smuggled to the bedside of Mrs. Stewart, whose condition forbids her being moved to any other place at this time."

### AMENDMENT TO BE URGED.

#### Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee Makes Important An- nouncement Anent Labor Legislation.

It is reported that specific amendments to the Sherman anti-trust law to remedy defects in the original enactment and to eliminate from it the "rules of reason" test which the United States supreme court wrote into the law, have been prepared by Representative Henry of Texas, chairman of the house committee on rules and ranking member of the judiciary committee. It is asserted that Mr. Henry will press the bill for immediate consideration before the committee on judiciary. Violation of the law is made a felony with imprisonment in the penitentiary of from two to ten years.

The bill exempts from the operation of the law members of organizations or associations not formed for profit and without capital stock, and agricultural products or live stock in the hands of the producer or raiser. This latter exemption has been what the American Federation of Labor has been contending for, and if this exemption is enacted into law the Sherman anti-trust law can then be enforced according to the original intentions of those who formulated and sought its passage.

It is further stated that the judiciary committee of the house has decided upon a revision of the injunction statutes and the laws regulating indirect contempt cases. A law providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt of court and modification of the injunction are regarded as necessary to carry out the pledges as expressed in the platform of the Denver national democratic convention.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COMMISSION

### Prominent Labor Men Attending Sessions and Aid by Valuable and Pertinent Suggestions

While the employers' liability and workmen's compensation commission are agreed on many of the main features of a plan of compensation to be presented to the coming session of congress, yet there are many important details which are yet to be worked out. Sessions are now being held and the representatives of the employers and of labor are in attendance. Prominent among those appearing before the commission was President Gompers, John Garretson of the Railway Conductors, W. L. Lee of the Railway Trainmen, Timothy Healy of the Stationary Firemen, and others. One of the main questions is the method and composition of an awarding tribunal. President Gompers, in a large measure, endorsed the commission's plan of insuring railroad employes against accident, but was emphatic in his opinion relative to the question of administration. He insisted that the tribunals should consist of one representing the employer, another representing the employes, while the third should be a physician of good standing and acceptable to the other two representatives. The commission suggested the idea of placing the power of selection of awarding boards with the federal courts, to which Mr. Gompers replied: "To confer this authority on the courts

is equivalent to saying that the courts are not governed by politics, and I am not sure that this is always the case." He added that he did not believe as a rule the courts were prompted by improper motives, but said that the environment and education of most judges are such as to render them incapable of correctly determining questions pertaining to industrial life. He also urged the abandonment of the idea of remunerating injured employes by the payment of lump sums, arguing that generally the workman, having had no experience in commercial life, with the ever decreasing opportunities for the survival of small business enterprises, with failure almost certain in a large percentage of cases, the stated compensation plan was the most humane to the injured employe and beneficial to society. It was also urged that the plan or scheme should be so formulated as to cover all railroads, and contributions go to a common fund, combating the idea presented by the commission, that each railroad or system be responsible only for the accidents occurring on its lines. The idea involved is, that the better equipped and safer roads will become a force in compelling the poorly equipped roads to bring their equipment and safety devices up to that of the better equipped roads.

### MINISTERS FOR LABOR.

#### Winnipeg Association Takes Action Against Employers and Extends Support to Leather Workers.

The Great West Saddlery Company of Winnipeg, has locked out that portion of their employes who refuse to sign an individual agreement to the effect that they would forever remain outside the pale of union labor. It must be borne in mind that the men who are locked out, dismissed from the factory, were unorganized, and did not belong to any union, but lost their positions simply because they would not sign the agreement, which in effect, signed away their freedom, which was presented to them by their employers. The Ministerial Association of Winnipeg became interested in the affair and made an investigation, and as a result, placed itself squarely against the attitude assumed by the employers. The ministerial association,

which represents the great majority of Protestant ministers in this city, declare: "That personal liberty conditioned by consideration for the general good is the sacred right of every man, be he employer or employe, and by both alike this right must be acknowledged and maintained. Hence, it is the right of workmen to unite in labor organizations, which it is to be noted, are authorized by law and recognized in the statutes of the Dominion notably in the terms and procedure of the Lemieux act; as it is also the right of the employer to engage upon fair conditions such men as he may choose without hindrance. \* \* \* \* \* That the demand of the Great West Saddlery Company, which if generally enforced, would wipe out all labor organizations, traverses the sacred right of personal liberty, ignores the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount, stands squarely across the advancing march of modern science, opposes the opinions of the most progressive employers of labor the world over and outrages every instinct of British fair play."

## PRESIDENT GOMPER'S REPORT

### Introductory Portion Clearly Enunciates Fundamental Principles of American Federation of Labor

After the preliminaries were completed the thirty-first annual convention of the American Federation of Labor at Atlanta, Ga., listened to President Gompers' report, the striking introductory passages of which are herewith presented: "The ground-work principle of America's labor movement has been to recognize that first things must come first. The primary essential in our mission has been the protection of the wage worker, now, to increase his wages, to cut hours off the long workday, which was killing him; to improve the safety and the sanitary conditions of the workshop; to free him from the tyrannies, petty or otherwise, which served to make his existence a slavery. These, in the nature of things, I repeat, were and are the primary objects of trade unionism. Our great Federation has uniformly refused to surrender this conviction and to rush to the support of any one of the numerous society-saving or society-destroying schemes which decade by decade have been sprung upon this country. A score of such schemes, having a national scope, and being for the passing day subject to popular discussion, have gone down behind the horizon and are now but ancient history. But while our Federation has thus been conservative, it has ever had its face turned toward whatever reforms, in politics or economics, could be of direct and obvious benefit to the working classes. It has never given up its birthright for a mess of pottage. It has pursued its avowed policy with the conviction that if the lesser and immediate demands of labor could not be obtained now from society as it is, it would be mere dreaming to preach and pursue that will-o'-the-wisp, a new society constructed from rainbow materials—a system of society on which even

the dreamers themselves have never agreed. \* \* \* It matters little whether any party, whatever its avowals and intentions, succeeds in one place or another, now and again, in this state or that. The things desirable, in contrast to party organization, methods, war cries and promises, are those resulting in permanency of efficient methods, in possibilities of advancing one by one the propositions favorable to the wage-workers, and in the opportunities for the full play of the powers of all the individuals of the community capable of promoting through legislation the welfare of the country and especially of the masses. This condition is being rapidly established, as we have said, through the energy and activity and concentration of aim of the American Federation of Labor. No other scheme of procedure for the advancement of the interests and well-being of the working classes measures up with the policy of our Federation in the slightest degree. The history of the working class movement of Europe in recent years is one of recession from cloud-land utopias and of approach toward the policy of our Federation. Revolution is to come by way of reform, and not by social cataclysm. The human conscience is to be society's guide. The social struggle is to be good and right against evil and wrong. The attainment of the maximum of liberty for every individual, the abolition of poverty, the best order in the production and equitable distribution of wealth—in a word the establishment of the conditions for the highest possible earthly happiness for mankind—all this must come through taking the best that civilization has given us and lopping off, one by one, its imperfect growths and its baneful excrescences."

#### BOUND TO WIN.

##### One Tailor on Strike for Raise.

A one man strike went into effect Oct. 16, in Bridgeport, Conn. It resulted from a demand of the garment workers for a nine-hour day, not more than two hours' overtime per week and payment of wages weekly. All the tailors but one in the city granted the demands, and that one employed a single tailor who is now on strike.

#### MILITANT TELEGRAPHERS.

##### The Southern Railway Key Men Want —"MORE."

The system committee representing the Order of Railway Telegraphers are expected to conclude its conference with the officials of the Southern Railway this week on the question of increased wages, and it is the opinion of Chairman Alexander that the raise asked for will be granted.

**TO CARE FOR EMPLOYEES.****Head of Department of Agriculture Urges Rights of Federal Workers Be Recognized and Protected.**

The secretary of agriculture is out with a statement declaring that the federal government should take a deeper interest in its civil employees, both while they are in active service as well as after they have reached the age of retirement. He has suggested that the government receive such part of the civil service employees' earnings as they voluntarily desire to save and invest, interest being paid upon the sums placed in the hands of the government. After these employees reach the age of retirement, or if they are injured or incapacitated for duty, the plan provides for an adequate retirement and pension system. "Men and women who have faithfully served the government, and who have passed the age when they cannot do the work required of them, should be cared for by the government to which they have given the best years of their lives," says the secretary. "I would not turn an old employe out upon the world without visible means of support any more than I would turn out an old and faithful horse. I would put the old horse—as I have done in the past—out in a pasture with the colts and let him kick up his heels and enjoy life." The efforts of the American Federation of Labor to effect the passage of employers' liability, workmen's compensation and other humanitarian legislative enactments, are having far-reaching influence in directing public opinion. As a result of persistent agitation the officials of the government are coming to realize that measures must be taken to adequately safeguard the rights and best interests of not only the employees of the government itself, but also of the workmen of the entire country.

**WANT HIGHER PAY FOR WOMEN.**

Public hearing was recently held by the commission appointed to consider the wisdom of establishing a scale of minimum wages for women and minors in Massachusetts. An official of the Retail Clerks said that in the department stores the wages of women of more than 18 years do not average more than \$7 per week, and for persons under 18 years the average is about \$4. He also asserted that the minimum should not be less than \$9, and that at present the proprietors of these stores refuse to employ any persons who are working in other stores, so that any one having employment can not secure a better position in another establishment.

**CANADIAN INNOVATION.****Injunction Method Inaugurated in the Dominion of Canada by Judge Restraining a Commission of Inquiry.**

American judicial methods are being inaugurated in Montreal, Can. Recently the street railway employees formed an organization; the company, as is usual, in its efforts to destroy the union, discharged forty of the men who had become members. Immediately following, the officials of the union, exercising their right under the Lemieux act, otherwise known as the industrial disputes act, demanded a commission of inquiry. This commission was accordingly appointed, the members of the Street Railwaymen's union selecting their representatives, the company and the government doing likewise. Then followed a turn in the affairs, the company, on advice of its solicitors, going into court and asking that a restraining order be issued forbidding the commission from sitting and exercising its functions under the Dominion law. The point raised by the attorneys for the company was that the Dominion parliament had no legal right to interfere in what was termed Provincial rights. In other words, it was contended that there was a conflict between what in the United States would be termed federal and state rights. The injunction was granted and is now pending an appeal. This case is exceedingly unique and emphasizes the contention that the judiciary is endeavoring to extend its scope of authority and even to annul statute law. Canada having no written constitution, the acts of the Dominion parliament have been at least assumed to be supreme; the judge himself being a creature and subordinate to the laws of the Dominion parliament.

**HARD TO EXIST.**

During the inquest at Whyteleafe, Surrey county, England, on a two months' old girl named Wilding, whose death the doctor claimed was due to wasting away on account of bad assimilation of food, the foreman of the jury asked the father, a railway porter, if his wages were sufficient to allow him to provide proper nourishment for his wife for her recent confinement. Wilding replied that he had 16s per week, from which he paid 5d for his club and 3s house rent, leaving 12s 7d to keep his wife and three children. Every other week his pay was 2s more for Sunday duty. Several jurymen remarked that it was impossible for a man to give his wife and family proper nourishment on 12s 7d per week.



## THE BIG RAILROAD STRIKE

**The Large Number of Employees Out on Big Railroad Systems  
Are Standing Loyal and Firm**

"The federation of the mechanical trades on the Harriman lines, which includes the Illinois Central, has entered upon the fifth week of the strike," says J. W. Kline, international president of the Blacksmiths and Helpers, "and the men are contending for the right to transact their business with these great corporations through a federated committee. The demands that have been made do not establish a precedent, as the federation has been recognized by a number of railroads. The officials of the Harriman lines undoubtedly have been selected by the general managers' association of the west, backed by the interests to fight this battle, at any cost, to disrupt the trade unions involved. The employees of the Harriman lines, actuated by the spirit of Americanism and loyalty to their organization, determined to contest this attack upon the rights of organized labor. It has been stated that many daily papers along the Harriman lines have been purchased and that they have attacked the employees and misrepresented the situation. In some places page advertise-

ments have been run, booklets issued and other reading matter distributed to the public, setting forth that the employees have made unreasonable demands. On behalf of the strikers, it is urged that the labor press give this strike all the publicity possible. We have asked that the company meet the committees as a federated body, and so far as the other demands are concerned, that will be a matter to be discussed in conference and no doubt an amicable adjustment can be made. This controversy was the result of the attitude of the Harriman officials, and the strike was forced upon the employees by higher officials of this system—as Julius Kruttschmidt stated to the committee, consisting of the general officers of the organizations involved, that he was following the instructions of President Lovett and the board of directors. It is clearly a fight of the interests against organized labor with their usual injunctions, but all we desire is fair play, and with a square deal we will win the contest."

### TAYLOR SYSTEM AGAIN.

**James O'Connell, President of the International Association of Machinists,  
Declares Men Will Oppose It.**

"If the Taylor system is put into operation in government shops by Secretary Stimson, as he has stated, one of two things will result—either congress will enact legislation relieving machinists of the unjust rigor of the so-called scientific shop management, or there will be a cessation of work. The men employed in the shops of the navy department are high grade workmen and compare well with the standard of the average American machinist, who is acknowledged to be without a peer in any country. There is nothing new in the Taylor system. It is simply parts of old systems welded together by Mr. Taylor. All its features, timing of particular jobs, regulation of raw material, bonuses, etc., have been put in operation in various places years ago. It simply resolves itself into driving the workmen. The machinists have no objection to having their work facilitated by the introduction of any system that will enable them to turn out work faster, by reason of having material made more available, or by having proper tools

placed conveniently near them. The proposition, however, of taking a highly proficient man working under advantageous conditions, and computing the time he spends on specified jobs and making it a standard, is unjust as well as faulty for many reasons. Chief among them is that there is no set standard. After one has been fixed and it is attained by the men by straining, it is raised by some few workmen better equipped physically, and, instead of having attained the goal, as he supposed, the average workman is informed that the state of efficiency he has reached is no longer the standard; that it has been raised."

### DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS.

For the purpose of considering the best means of establishing co-operation between the federal government, through the division of information, department of commerce and labor, and various States in the distribution of immigrants and other residents of the United States, a two day conference has been held in Washington at the New Ebbitt, between the representatives of the State bureau of immigration, agriculture, etc., and a representative of the division of information.

## INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

### This Modern Legislative Method on Trial Before the United States Supreme Court.

The initiative and referendum is up before the United States supreme court to be tested as to its constitutionality. The original case comes from Portland, Ore. Attorneys from San Francisco and Portland recently appeared before the highest tribunal in this country, in opposition to the initiative and referendum. It was contended by the attorneys opposing this method that there could not, with due regard to the federal constitution, be two legislative powers in a State, namely, the legislature and the people. It was further contended that taxes imposed under the initiative and referendum were not by due "process of law," and violated "the equal protection of the law," so long as some persons were taxed under the initiative laws and others under legislative enactments. During the arguments before the court in opposition to the initiative and referendum method the attorneys were closely questioned by Justice Lurton and Chief Justice White. The questions and demeanor of the judges were critical and indicated that their minds were not in harmony with the argument being adduced. A number of prominent attorneys appeared in defense of the initiative and referendum making splendid arguments for its retention as a legislative method in our scheme of government. It was the opinion of those who were in attendance during the arguments, that the supreme court will undoubtedly sustain the constitutionality of this most beneficent act.

## RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

The interstate commerce commission has just issued its statement on railroad accidents for the last fiscal year. It shows that there has been one employe killed to every 458 employed. This is the first statement of a year's record of accidents under the law of May 6, 1910. It shows the total number of casualties for the year ending June 30, 1911, to be 160,555—10,396 killed and 150,159 injured. Of this number 439 killed and 79,237 injured are classed under the head of industrial accidents which do not involve the moving of cars or engines on rails. A total of 5,287 persons were killed and 5,614 were injured while trespassing on property of railroads. There is a notable decrease in the number of passengers killed as compared with the previous year, being 356 against 421. Accidents

on electric lines carrying interstate traffic show that there were 410 persons killed and 3,264 injured during the year exclusive of industrial accidents. There were 10 employes killed and 399 injured on the premises of the companies, in which accidents no movement of car or engine was involved. The bulletin gives the total number of employes in the service of railroad companies as 1,648,033.

## ARBITRATION FOR STREET RAILWAY MEN.

The street car service of Augusta, Ga., which was tied up for over 24 hours, has been resumed pending the arbitration of differences between the men and the company. The strike was precipitated by the discharge of four men "for disloyalty to the company," the result of an effort of the employes of the Augusta Aiken Railway, an electric corporation, to form a union. The company attempted to break up the newly formed organization by discharging the men taking a prominent part in the movement. The merchants of Augusta circulated a petition urging that the difficulty be settled, and as a result, an agreement was reached to submit the question of wages and conditions to arbitration.

## FREE TEXT BOOKS.

The board of education of Nashville, Tenn., has adopted a plan whereby the free text book system will be inaugurated in the city schools. The committee having the matter under consideration recommended that plans should be made to inaugurate this system in 1912, by introducing at least two grades each year until the pupils of every grade in the grammar schools have free books. It is stated that this action will have the effect of largely increasing the attendance in the public schools. The board also has under consideration the matter of a pension for school teachers.

## WHAT CHINESE REBELS SEEK.

The great uprising in China but emphasizes the great world unrest. Conflicting reports are received in alternating dispatches, but there seems to be a general belief or indication that the rebellion is gathering impetus and will finally be successful. The demands contained in a proclamation issued are as follows: The overthrow of the present Manchu dynasty; the founding of a new dynasty with a Chinese emperor on the throne; the succoring of the needy and oppressed, and the introduction of many much needed reforms.

**UNION PRINTERS WIN.**

The union printers have won a victory in their fight against a Poughkeepsie, N. Y., printing concern. In submitting bids for the printing of ballots for the general election the firm referred to was low bidder and when the contract was prepared it was drawn up in accordance with the law and the rules governing union labor—eight hours per day, etc. To this the firm objected and applied to the courts for a mandamus compelling the election commission to award the contract with the eight hour clause eliminated. The court held that the law was plainly in favor of the contention of the Printers' union; that the public printing must be done under eight hours and the pay of employes must be in accordance with the prevailing rate pay.

**NECKWEAR MAKERS WIN.**

Practically all of the neckwear manufacturers of New York have conceded the demand made by the Neckwear Makers' union and signed agreements for one year. A great number of contractors also have signed agreements and the trade is now practically at peace.

**VIOLATORS MULCTED BY FINES.**

Nelson Brothers, contractors of public work, pleaded guilty in the superior court of Muskogee, Okla., to violating the 8-hour law and working men and teams below the scale. A fine of \$50.00 and costs was assessed in two cases, and a number of other cases that had been filed against the contractors were dismissed. The State labor department is using great activity in the enforcement of the 8-hour law in this State.

**EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES TO MEET.**

Under direction of the State bureau of labor there will be a State conference of employers and employees in the Twin Cities, on December 7 and 8, to discuss the problems of safe-guarding machinery and prevention of accidents. Inspection of manufacturing plants in the cities will be made to view safety appliances in use. Addresses on various kindred subjects will also be had.

**CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE.**

The Minnesota child labor committee opened its session in Duluth recently with a good attendance from all parts of the State. Many papers were read, and an able address was made by Commissioner of Labor Houk. The committee has done valuable agitation work.

**RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING.**

The convention of the United States civil service retirement association will be held in Washington in January, and it is predicted will be attended by a larger number of delegates than at any similar convention in the past. Interest in the adoption of a civil retirement pension for employes will be the general subject discussed. There is apparently a favorable inclination on the part of congress to enact such legislation, many congressmen being outspoken in their advocacy of such a measure.

**FIRE LAWS BROKEN.**

Commissioner of accounts of New York, Raymond B. Fosdick, has submitted to Mayor Gaynor report of the investigation which has been carried on since January 1, 1910, of the records and work of the bureau of violations and auxiliary fire appliances. The report asserts that in practically every theatre and moving picture house, as well as hundreds of factories, which are mere fire traps at best, no pretense is made of obeying the law. It is stated that active efforts are to be made at once to correct this state of affairs.

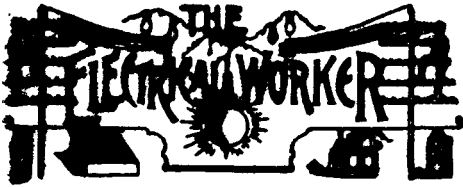
**HIGH WATER MARK REACHED.**

The increase in membership of the American Federation of Labor during the fiscal year 1911, with the addition of 51,300 members which came with the affiliation of the Western Federation of Miners, forced the average paid up and reported membership up to 1,756,735. This is an increase of 194,623 over the membership of 1910, and 80,535 members over the previous high water mark of 1904. The American Federation of Labor today has the largest membership ever in its history, is physically stronger, its effectiveness greater, and its prospects for the coming year most flattering.

During the past six months there were 891,807 paupers in England and Wales, which is a decrease of 43,931 as compared with the preceding year. The large decrease is owing to the operation of the old age pension act.

**BUTCHERS GET RAISE.**

What portended to be a serious wage difficulty between the butchers' union and a packing company in Louisville, Ky., has been amicably adjusted. A wage raise of from 2 to 5 cents per hour has been granted, and organization recognized.



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PETER W. COLLINS, Editor,  
Pierik Bldg., Springfield, Ill.

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#### RELIEF ASSOCIATIONS.

The railroad employes' relief associations, it is stated, will not be disturbed by the proposed employers' liability legislation to be submitted to congress this winter by the congressional committee on employers' liability and workmen's compensation. Several roads that have their own relief associations were anxious to know what congress would expect of them, and several representatives of these roads met with Senator Sutherland, chairman of the committee, who told them that the proposed legislation would not interfere with the roads' individual plans if, after investigation, they were found to be satisfactory. It is claimed that the railroads interested have relief association liabilities amounting to two hundred millions, and some of the associations have been in operation for 25 years. The assurance of the chairman of the committee, however, is only tentative because congress will have the last word on this important measure.

#### MAKES APOLOGY.

The suit instituted by President James M. Lynch of the International Typographical union, against the editor of the Michigan Tradesmen at Grand Rapids, for \$25,000 damages, has been settled. The editor of the publication has made a public apology in his paper and assumed the court costs. The paper in question made a libelous statement practically charging Mr. Lynch with the responsibility for the Los Angeles Times catastrophe.

#### MANUFACTURERS FINED.

Eighteen manufacturers in New York were recently arraigned in special sessions to answer charges of violating labor laws. The charges including improper sanitation in workrooms, bolted doors in factories, improper dressing rooms for women, and working minors overtime. Most of the defendants pleaded guilty and sentences were suspended; while for flagrant cases, or second offenses, fines were imposed of from \$10 to \$25. Further prosecutions are to follow.

#### ROAD RAISES WAGES.

Members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers have been notified that all operators, towermen and agents on the New York Central lines have been given an increase in wages; the increase beginning November 15. More than 6,000 men are benefited.

### METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

**James O'Connell Re-elected President and Will Devote His Entire Time to Organization Under Salary.**

Many matters of importance to the metal trades were discussed at the recent convention of the metal trades department, held in Atlanta, Ga., and arrangements have been made to materially strengthen the organization during the coming year. Owing to the fact that the secretary's work has become extremely heavy, the president of the department has been directed to give his entire time to the work of the department, a salary being provided therefor. It was decided that a meeting of the representatives of the various affiliated internationals should hereafter be held at least four times a year, the object being to get closer co-operation between the different organizations in the department. A resolution was also passed asking the assistance of the American Federation of Labor to help the metal trades department to discourage the introduction of the Taylor system now being inaugurated in some of the arsenals and other workshops where guns and equipment are turned out. The new officers elected are: President, James O'Connell; first vice president, J. F. Valentine, president of the Molders' union; second vice president, J. W. Kline, president of the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths; third vice president, J. F. Franklin, president of the Brotherhood of Boilermakers; fourth vice president, F. D. Daly, president of the Metal Polishers; secretary, A. J. Berres, Pattern Makers League.

### INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

**Efforts Are Being Put Forth to Have Labor's Bill in Congress Enacted Into Law the Coming Session.**

The American Federation of Labor has been for the past several years championing the passage of an industrial vocational educational bill. Congressman Wilson introduced at the extra session, H. R. 12156, "To co-operate with the States in encouraging instruction in agriculture, the trades and industries and home economics in secondary schools, in maintaining instruction in these vocational subjects in State normal schools, in maintaining extension departments in State colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts, and to appropriate money and regulate its expenditure." The companion bill in the senate is S. 3, introduced by Senator Page of Vermont. While the American Federation of Labor has been the pioneer in the agitation to secure this character

of legislation, there are several forces at work along the same line. Congressman Wilson has devoted much time to the consideration of this measure, and so has Senator Page. The southern commercial congress with headquarters in Washington, is at the present time, sending out a large amount of literature for the purpose of urging those interested to interview their congressman and senators, for the purpose of securing the passage of these bills. It is a meritorious cause, and every assistance should be afforded those who are actively engaged in an effort to secure this legislation.

### "CHILD PEDDLERS ON STREETS."

The Chicago Record-Herald, in an editorial under the above caption, has this to say: "It is impossible not to sympathize with those earnest friends of childhood who are making an effort to prevent boys and girls under fourteen from peddling gum, flowers, candy or anything else in the streets—including vice centers—at all hours of the day and many hours of the night. Who has not been pitifully appealed to and followed by little vendors after theatre hours, even on cold winter nights? These children should be taken off and kept off the streets. The mayor has promised Miss Addams, Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen and other social workers of the city to look into the matter and do what he can under existing laws. So far so good. We may add, however, that women like Miss Addams and Mrs. Bowen will not stop there. They will doubtless send competent persons to investigate the home life and conditions of every child peddler ordered off the streets. Where the few cents the poor children occasionally earn are an item in the family budget; where a widow or deserted wife is perhaps forced to lean on a child of tender years, other and better assistance will certainly be supplied. The right reform spirit is constructive and helpful, and this is the spirit of the juvenile protective league and of the social settlements."

### LECTURE COURSE IN UNION.

The Steam Engineers' union in St. Paul, Minn., has made arrangements for a course of practical and technical lectures bearing on the work of the craft to be delivered in meetings of the union during the coming winter, following the policy adopted last winter. The lectures are to begin at a stated hour, the business session of the union being first in order. The lectures are to be given once a month.

**PRISONER IN OWN JAIL.**

Former Sheriff John E. Shields of Westmoreland county, Pa., who was sentenced to two years and four months in the Western penitentiary for perjury, is a prisoner in his own jail, his conviction growing out of the coal strike in the Westmoreland fields last year. Shields was one of the active spirits in fighting the sheet and tin workers during the strike against the steel trust at New Kensington, Apollo and Vandergrift in 1909. He made himself conspicuously obnoxious in various ways to organizers Arthur E. Holder and Jeff Pierce of the American Federation of Labor, during the progress of the strike; these organizers having been detailed to assist the strikers. At last, Shields "got his."

**REFUSE TO BE STRIKE BREAKERS.**

Fourteen boilermakers, not members of the Boilermakers' union, were offered jobs at Albany, N. Y., but upon arriving found they were to be used as strike breakers. Although the men were without money they refused to go to work, having been deluded into coming to accept regular employment. A similar instance occurred in Sedalia, Mo., where sixteen men, some of whom had families with them, were shipped in on the promise of steady employment, not being informed of the strike in progress. These latter also refused to be used as strike breakers.

**PORTO RICO DELEGATES.**

The delegates in attendance at the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Atlanta, Ga., from Porto Rico are Santiago Iglesias, general organizer of the American Federation of Labor; Joaquin A. Becerril of the Bricklayers' and Masons' union of San Juan, and Rafael Alonso, Typographical union No. 473. Mr. Becerril is the editor of the labor paper, *Voz del Obrero*. Senor Alonso is secretary of the Free Federation of Workingmen of the Island of Porto Rico.

**LABOR ON PANAMA CANAL.**

It is reported by officials in charge of the work on the Panama canal that there is now a surplus of labor in the zone. It is also stated that no importations of labor have taken place for a considerable length of time. There has been a decided falling off in immigration, while a large number of West Indian laborers have gone into the interior and are no longer available for labor, except casually.

**ACTION TAKEN TO TEST LAW.**

The State treasurer of Ohio has refused to honor a warrant issued by the State auditor to pay a voucher executed by the State liability board of awards. This action has been decided upon in order that the new law may be put to the test in the courts, with the end in view that if it runs counter to any provision of the constitution it can be determined as soon as possible, in order that any defect may be remedied by the next legislature or become a subject for the coming constitutional convention to deal with. Information is to the effect that aside from the State legal department eminent counsel will also assist the State in defending the law.

**PENSIONS FOR POSTAL CLERKS.**

Postmaster General Hitchcock has announced his determination to make an appeal to congress for the establishment of a pension system that will provide for men and women who have been in the postal service for years and have grown old in the service.

The desire of the postmaster general to provide for aged postoffice employes has received a stimulus by the dismissal of Daniel Rooney and Andrew Hyde by Postmaster Morgan of New York. Both had served for many years in the New York city postoffice and were dismissed some time ago by the postmaster because he became convinced that their age impaired their future usefulness.

**PROMINENT ENGLISH VISITORS.**

Thomas Chambers, the general treasurer of the National Sailors' and Firemen union of Great Britain and Ireland, recently arrived in New York. Mr. Chambers will attend the coming convention of the International Seamen's union, to be held in Baltimore, and it is said that after the convention he will make a number of addresses in this city and other places. He was one of the valuable aides of J. Havelock Wilson in building up the British Seamen's union, which prosecuted the recent successful strike. Mr. Chambers returns to England in January.

**BUTTON WORKERS.**

The Button Workers at LaCrosse, Wis., won an increase of \$1.50 per week as a result of a short strike.

Carpenters at Ashville, N. C., have been successful in their campaign for higher wages and have secured an increase of 25c a day.

# CORRESPONDENCE

New York, Nov. 23, 1911.  
Mr. P. W. Collins, I. S.

Dear Sir and Brother—As one of the delegates representing the inside Electrical Workers of New York City at the last convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, held at Rochester, N. Y., September 18 to September 29, 1911, would like to express my sentiments of same, in relation to the difficulty existing in the Brotherhood in relation to the factional fight of which I was at sea until I was seated as a delegate in the convention, for I had received different statements from different sources, as to who was wrong and who was right. On my arrival at Rochester, and before the opening of the convention, I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of delegates from different parts of the country, and I want to say right here that the sentiments of the majority were firm in their belief that our officers were in the wrong, and that they should be removed from office immediately, mind you they had formed an opinion before hearing the officers make any report on the situation.

You can imagine my surprise on hearing the report from our officers, especially International President McNulty and International Secretary Collins, which dealt with facts in detail. There was not one delegate in the convention hall who was not satisfied that they were right and had done everything in their power to bring about harmony in the electrical industry. In fact gave more concessions, I believe, than the rank and file would have done if they had been in their positions, under the circumstances.

After the attorney for our side had explained our present status of the case now pending in the courts of Cleveland and proved by the proceedings of said court that the Reid faction used every technical point they could to defer the trial of the suit pending which they themselves had instituted.

I wish to state, that in my opinion, there is a reason for their delaying action. Mind you, I do not say the rank and file of the seceders are in favor of such tactics, and I honestly believe that they are as anxious for the suits now pending to be tried on their merits as we do, from looking at the situation from all points it seems to me and I am fully convinced that the officers of the Reid factions are not dealing honestly with their own members, and it is only a question of time when the rank and file Reid faction will

awaken to the fact that they have been artfully deceived by their so-called officers. In reference to the holding of both conventions in the same city, I personally am convinced and believe others are, that it was one grand move on the part of our officers, inasmuch as it brought us face to face with the delegates of the Reid faction whom many of us were acquainted with for years, and gave them a chance from the west to hear our side of the controversy, and a great number of them were thoroughly convinced that there must be a nigger in the wood pile somewhere. To prove this they in convention assembled insisted upon a committee being appointed to try and bring about a settlement of the present difficulty which was done and we in turn elected a special committee with power to negotiate with them for a settlement. There is no doubt in my mind that if it was not for the suits now pending in the Cleveland courts there would be at this present moment a united Brotherhood working for the best interest of the electrical worker. Both committees agreed to use their best endeavors to have the suits tried immediately, thereby removing all obstacles in the way of a settlement. Our attorney told us that there was not the least chance of the action being delayed any longer if the officers would proceed to Cleveland and insist upon the immediate trial of said suit, and that he had no doubt that if the complainant would request that the suits be tried the court would grant same. I want to say that our convention through its officers immediately sent a telegram to our attorney requesting that the suits, now pending be immediately tried, as they were anxiously awaiting such trial and had been doing everything in their power to have them tried for the past two years. Now there was nothing else for this Brotherhood to do but have the suit determined before there could be any settlement, inasmuch that if we came to any agreement and the cases in court not settled there is no doubt in my mind that harmony would be fruitless, as any member could again do the same thing and we would have to go all through the same difficulty. And I know that there are members in the Reid faction who do not want any settlement, as I know them personally in my own city, some who are organizers now in the Reid faction. And as soon as there was a settlement it would cut off their revenue. My earnest wish as a member of the Brotherhood is that

the present difficulty will soon be a thing of the past and that it will never occur in the ranks of organized labor again, and that we may in the near future have a united Brotherhood that will be a credit to the Electrical Workers of this country.

With best wishes for the Brotherhood,  
Fraternally,

M. J. Conroy,  
Inside Electrical Workers of Greater New York.

To the Officers and Members of the I. B. E. W., Greeting:

The eleventh convention of the I. B. E. W., presided over by I. P., F. J. McNulty, which convened in convention hall, Rochester, N. Y., September 18, 1911, was one of the most important conventions in the history of organized labor, and one that will be from every point of view, an everlasting remembrance to those delegates who were in attendance.

Each and every local union of our Brotherhood, that had delegates in attendance at our convention, is to be highly complimented upon the excellent selection they made; and in making the above statement, I do not desire to exaggerate matters, but when we look at the earnestness with which the delegates entered into the deliberations that were before them they certainly are deserving of the highest commendation.

It is also gratifying to note the great confidence expressed in our international officers which surely is demonstrated by the fact that they were re-elected by acclamation.

At this time I believe that it would only be proper to reply to the statement to the effect that we should have removed our international officers, that by so doing we would accomplish a speedier settlement of our differences in the electrical world. I am now, and always have been, a strong advocate of rewarding those who have proven themselves worthy, honest and capable, and as our international officers have given an excellent account of their transactions for the past two years the only proper vindication that the Brotherhood could have bestowed upon them was a unanimous re-election. Just as soon as any organization begins to remove officers who have been honest and efficient in their duties to satisfy the desires of a disgruntled few then we will cease to have at the head of our organization men of capability.

I desire at this time to say to our Brotherhood at large that whatever may be the defamatory statements either written or oral against our Brotherhood or our international officers, always act the part of fair and honest judge and become thoroughly conversant with the facts before drawing conclusions. I

know that our international officers are at all times only to glad to furnish you with absolute facts, which they are able at all times to back up under oath.

Owing to the fact that we have been working so harmoniously under our constitution as amended in Chicago, 1909, there were not many changes of great importance. As you are voting on the new constitution and by-laws and thereby will become thoroughly acquainted with them I will not comment on same. I cannot help but feel that with the thoroughly good work done at our Rochester convention that every delegate returned to his home local absolutely convinced beyond any doubt that we will be able to very soon show to the labor world that we are right in all our contentions, and that honesty must in the end at all times prevail.

Our future for the Brotherhood is the very brightest, our audit committee report shows our finances to be in excellent condition and remarkable to note that after paying out over \$12,500 in death claims since our Chicago convention that there remains the remarkable balance of \$8,750 in the death benefit fund. It is also remarkable to note that our Brotherhood has met every financial obligation and has financed our Rochester convention dollar for dollar as per constitution and still is in a healthy financial condition, which certainly is speaking wonders for our Brotherhood.

So considering the excellent work of our officers and the membership at large we cannot help but look into the future with the brightest of prospects for our beloved organization.

With best wishes to the membership at large, I am,

Fraternally,

L. C. Grasser,  
Third International Vice President.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 11, 1911.

P. W. Collins, Int. Sec.,

Dear Sir and Brother—As it has been some time since Local 666 has been heard from in the Worker, I beg to send this for publication.

This town is getting to be some city now, as any one who hasn't seen it for about three years can testify, and we boys are trying to keep this local growing with the city. Richmond stands about third on the list of cities having buildings under construction, having between three and four million dollars of buildings now going up and very near all the work is strictly union.

We are about to present agreements to contractors here which will be very beneficial to the local and the beauty is, we do not expect any trouble about it. We



have ninety per cent of the inside men here in the local.

I notice among the recommendations of the constitution committee of I. C., an article which sounds good to me, it recommends that all members insist on the I. B. E. W. union label on all devices and apparatus, as far as possible. I think it would be a good plan to publish a list of all goods or manufacturers that carry the label.

With best wishes for the success of the Brotherhood and all its locals, I am,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) G. M. Miller.

Schenectady, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1911.

Mr. Peter W. Collins,

International Secretary I. B. E. W.

Dear Sir and Brother—I have your esteemed favor of recent date requesting me to give my impressions of the late convention of our Brotherhood for the benefit of the readers of the Electrical Worker.

I want to say that I went to the convention with the idea that a united Brotherhood was the most important matter for consideration. I was disappointed that the two factions were unable to adjust their differences and get together under one head. I hope that with the counsel of the American Federation of Labor unity can be accomplished before many months have passed. I found a greater disposition on the part of the delegates to our convention to maintain friendly relations with the seceders than I expected. I believe that our committee did their best to bring about amalgamation, but it seems to me that a few slight concessions on the part of our convention would have accomplished the desired result. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has a magnificent future and is destined to stand in the front rank of the labor organizations of the land.

Yours fraternally,

Herbert M. Merrill.

Chicago, November 14, 1911.

Mr. Peter W. Collins,

Int. Secy., Pierik Building,  
Springfield, Ill.

My Dear Sir and Brother:

In reply to your letter of November 6 I take pleasure in expressing my opinion of our Convention at Rochester, because of the complete harmony that existed throughout the meeting. You have heard the old saying, "A House Divided Against Itself," which surely does not apply in this instance. Harmony everywhere was the slogan, to the great and distinct advantage of the entire Convention, which will go further to insure the success of our organization, in my mind, than any one thing. Then

again I was most favorably impressed with the personnel of the various delegates, all of whom conducted themselves in a manner that was a credit to the American Federation of Labor. So I say with such a feeling, as I have tried to describe above, existing in our organization, it cannot help but go forward with leaps and bounds.

Very respectfully,

Don. L. Bernard.

Local No. 134, Chicago.

New York, Nov. 13, 1911.

Peter W. Collins, I. S.,

Dear Sir and Brother—In the matter of Victor Reichel vs. No. 381 of Chicago, I am instructed to notify you that on his own written statement we have found Victor Reichel guilty of violating Sec. 5, of Art. XVI of I. B. C., and have imposed an assessment of \$200 on him, and request that you make a record of same and publish this in the Worker.

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) J. W. Smith,

(Seal)

Rec. Sec'y.

Jersey City, N. J., Oct. 27, 1911.

Peter W. Collins, Int. Secy. I. B. E. W.,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother:

As per resolution adopted by this local, I am instructed to inform you that owing to the conditions of the trade in this territory, we are compelled not to receive traveling cards for the next six months.

Yours fraternally,

Geo. Knoop,

Secretary.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 1, 1911.

Mr. Peter W. Collins,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother:

After attending the Rochester convention of Electrical Workers, and the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor, I desire to express my sentiments in the columns of The Worker.

I had hopes before going to Rochester that satisfactory arrangements would be made, or an agreement entered into which would result in joining the seceders with our Brotherhood without unreasonable delay.

To this end a committee from our convention met a like committee from the Reid convention and they jointly drew up an agreement which would have brought about an amalgamation after the trial of the Gelb suit in Cleveland but the Reid convention misunderstood the application of the phrase we used in adopting the joint committees' report, "That we waive no legal rights in the premises" (see page 75 of convention pro-

ceedings) which meant that we wished the suit tried on its merits, and not as a friendly proceeding. The Reid convention attached four (4) provisos to the agreement when they adopted it and asked our convention to approve same. We replied that we would stand on the original recommendation of the joint committee, which would positively result in amalgamation if the Reid convention did the same; but they did not.

I might say in this connection, that if our laws do not suit the Reid organization, they should come inside, and offer suggestions, as we cannot consider any recommendations from outsiders.

To get back to the main question, I find that our entire organization wants a trial of the Geib suit to determine the right of any one, two or a dozen individuals to tie up the funds of our organization, but the officers of the Reid organization realize that such a trial would end their career as leaders; consequently they will prolong the end as long as they can keep their members in the dark. Does it not seem strange that confidence such as is displayed by their membership can be reposed in self-appointed leaders, as it were, who kindled the fire of secession and as yet have never produced any facts, nor did they ever keep any agreement entered into, and I doubt that such a thing as good faith ever existed in their make up.

Just as long as secession is tolerated, just so long will you have dissatisfied, self-styled leaders who will sap the strength of the organization and get by with charges of graft and crookedness, falsely made, and profit by the weakness of the rank and file, the majority of which like to hear of a man's downfall rather than of his success.

Our seats in the A. F. of L. convention were protested by E. J. Brais, delegate from the Journeymen Tailors' Union and A. Rosenberg, of the Lady Garment Workers' Union. It was discovered that A. Rosenberg was not eligible to seat in the convention on account of arrearages, and we were seated after President Gompers sustained a point of order raised by Vice President Jas. O'Connell.

Reflection of bad faith on Reid's part was again apparent when the A. F. of L. administered the third annual defeat to a resolution which was to give the Reid organization a seat in the Atlanta convention, and to issue a charter to their organization. The decisive vote of 163 against to 15 in favor of was recorded.

The above mentioned resolution was referred to the Building Trades committee and the two committees of electrical workers were called in. McNulty was asked if he would recommend to his organization the joint agreement reached in Rochester as a means of settlement of

the differences between the affiliated and the unaffiliated organizations.

McNulty replied that he would and added that our committee had never been discharged. When the same question was put to Reid, he replied that he would submit any proposition to his organization that was submitted to him by the A. F. of L., but that he would not recommend same, for it would be taking away his prerogative (as he put it.)

The A. F. of L. ordered Reid to submit to a referendum vote, the agreement reached at Rochester, with a view of carrying out the provisions of same and thus amalgamate the two organizations into one comprehensive brotherhood of electrical workers, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

I hope the members of the Reid organization will realize that this joint agreement referred to, which was reached at Rochester, is an agreement for amalgamation of the two organizations, but that we demand a trial of the Geib suit on its merits to establish a precedent, which will protect our organization from a like occurrence in the future.

The future of our organization depends greatly upon the reuniting of the two bodies of electrical workers and for this reason, I appeal as an individual to every electrical worker to join forces in demanding a speedy trial of the Geib suit and for all time settle the dispute which the employers want continued, and which has set us back in the labor movement years without number. Let us play our efforts against the employer, not with them.

J. W. Yount.

Chicago, Nov. 28, 1911.

To the Members of Local No. 376, I. B. E. W.

Greeting—Regarding the controversy between locals No. 376 and No. 134, we feel it our duty to let the members know the true state of affairs.

Following is a copy of both briefs sent President McNulty for the purpose of him rendering his decision, and we want to say that more than two-thirds of No. 376's brief is untrue.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 376, 409 South Halsted Street, Telephone, Monroe 3997.

Chicago, Nov. 2, 1911.

Mr. F. J. McNulty, I. P.,  
Springfield, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother—Local No. 376 charges Local No. 134, I. B. E. W., with violating the constitution under the jurisdiction article and article No. twenty-nine (29), section one (1), to-wit: As Local Union No. 134 appeared before Local No. 376's employers known as the Chicago Switchboard Manufacturing Association, on October 5, 1911, and made the follow-

ing statements, that with the full authority from his organization that they would install all non-union apparatus, namely: Switchboards and panel boards, irrespective of the agreement existing between Locals 134 and 376, I. B. of E. W., and that further regard for the label of the I. B. E. W., would be discarded, as far as his organization was concerned, unless the shop workers' employers forced the shop men of Local No. 376 into his organization in class "B."

This has been the means of stopping the increase in wages to members of Local Union No. 376, and demoralizing conditions in the shops.

M. J. Boyle, business agent of Local No. 134, thereupon visited our shops, namely: J. Lang Electric Company, Electrical Apparatus, State's Electric Company, Cuthbert Electric Company, H. Newgard Company, and Kohler Brothers, with threats that unless they did take permits out in his local union, namely No. 134, he would refuse to handle apparatus manufactured by members of Local No. 376, I. B. E. W., and on account of said threats and others, the members went to Local No. 134's office and got said permits.

Local No. 376's executive board immediately ordered its business agent to take our members out until matter was settled. The business agent, following out the orders of the executive board, had the members lay off, which they did for a half day, and Business Agent Boyle of Local No. 134 met our members and ordered them back under threats, and our members went back, some of them, which placed Local No. 376 with its employers in a very bad light. On October 19, 1911, at a regular meeting, Local No. 134, I. B. E. W., went on record in endorsing and having sent our employers the following copy of letters herein attached:

Chicago, Oct. 20, 1911.

J. Lang Electric Co.,  
421 N. Lincoln St., City.

Dear Sir—You are hereby notified that the agreement between Local No. 134, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Local No. 376, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, dated January 11, 1911, has been canceled, and that on and after October 26, 1911, members of Local No. 134, I. B. E. W., will refuse to install switchboards or panel boards manufactured after above mentioned date, if manufactured other than under the jurisdiction of Local No. 134, I. B. E. W.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) M. J. Boyle,  
Business Agent Local No. 134, I. B. E. W.

We desire to call your attention to the fact that the H. Newgard Company had laid off three of our members on account

of the visit of M. J. Boyle, made on October 17, 1911, and the following morning, October 18, 1911, the business agent of our local took the rest of our members out, when it was shown, after a conference with Mr. Henry Newgard, and which said Henry Newgard admitted that he wanted a non-union shop. Since then M. J. Boyle has stated that he would furnish the H. Newgard Company with men to take our members' place out on strike.

In regards to our agreement between Local No. 134, No. 376 has never at any time received notice from Local No. 134 in reference to its cancellation, or from its employers, to its agreement with same, which expires April 1, 1912, which the local is given to understand that on account of the letter sent out by M. J. Boyle, business agent of Local No. 134, to our employers, all agreements are null and void, as far as Local No. 376, I. B. E. W., is concerned, who were a party to all agreements, and as yet have never been notified officially, either by its employers or Local No. 134, which should appear to all trade unionists as a peculiar condition where a sister organization can break agreements made by another organization without that organization having a voice in the matter which has caused confusion and dissension in our ranks and places Local No. 376 before its employers of where one organization of the I. B. E. W., can smash another organization of the same Brotherhood to the satisfaction of the employers on account of the tactics employed by Local No. 134, I. B. E. W. This condition is quite a contrast to that taken at the convention, where efforts were made to bring about harmonious relations between both factions of the I. B. E. W.

Local No. 376, I. B. E. W., appeals to you as our international officers to immediately take up Local No. 134's charter until the injustice imposed upon Local No. 376 is straightened out satisfactory to all concerned. Trusting that you will immediately comply with Local No. 376's request, so as the matter can be adjusted without delay, we beg to remain,

Fraternally yours,

John F. Nichols,  
F. A. Lundmark,  
Jas. P. Boyle,  
Jos. A. Aparr,  
A. C. Peterson,  
Thomas Sullivan,

Executive Board Local No. 376.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 8. 1911.

Mr. F. J. McNulty,

Int. Pres. I. B. E. W.,

New Kimball House, Atlanta, Ga.

Enclosed herewith find brief of Local No. 134, I. B. E. W., as per your request of November 6, 1911.

On June 1, 1910, an independent telephone company started up in the City of Chicago, known as the Subway Telephone Construction Company, installing the Automatic Telephone System. Local No. 134, in conjunction with Local No. 9, perfected a working agreement between the two locals and both signing a close shop agreement. A copy of both agreements is on file at the international office. These two locals worked along in harmony ever since. Owing to the fact that there were not sufficient men in our organization who understood the Automatic Telephone System, it was necessary for us to procure from other locals, men who were familiar with the system. A great number of members from No. 376 were employed and worked along in harmony until after September 2, 1911, when about ten of No. 376 men were examined and accepted by examining board of Local No. 134, which was the cause of Local No. 376 laying claim to that work. As up to this time but few of these men had transferred and as soon as they saw we had started to examine them in large numbers they realized they would not be able to collect dues from them any longer. They immediately started an agitation laying claim to the work and called a special meeting on Wednesday, September 6, 1911, of all their members working on the above work, and had them sign a petition that they would not join Local No. 134. At the time of the signing of this petition, the secretary of the examining board of Local No. 134 had already sent notices to 42 members of Local No. 376 to appear for examination the following Saturday. Local No. 134, on learning the nature of the petition, again notified the same 42 members through the business agent of Local No. 134 to appear for examination. Upon refusing to appear, their permits would be taken up. Local No. 134 also instructed their business agent to meet the committee of No. 376 and inform them if they attempted to take work that belonged to us through our agreement with Local No. 9, we would refuse to render them assistance in the manufacturing of panel board and switchboards, and in order to protect the label on those boards would insist on the men working in those shops to become members of Local No. 134. On Saturday, Sept. 9, 1911, of the 42 men who were notified to appear for examination but two of them appeared, and on Monday, September 11, 1911, we started out and took up all permits of the 40 men who did not appear and some 17 or 18 men who signed the petition to not come into our Local quit work with these men. Local Union No. 134 immediately took steps to fill their places with members of their local, and also maintaining our reputation of

living up to our work, we succeeded in having the men employed in the switchboard shops, working under our jurisdiction.

We hope you will look at this in true light, as owing to the antagonistic position of No. 376, we feel justified in taking the position that we took and that you will render your decision accordingly.

(Signed) P. F. Sullivan,

Chairman Executive Board Local No. 134.

You will note that your committee have not made any mention in their brief as to the direct cause of the controversy which was the maintenance work for the Illinois Tunnel Company; the reason of this is that they are sending copies of those briefs broadcast to other locals, and they know very well that other locals would not sympathize with them, knowing that they had contended for said work. You will also notice that their brief dates November 2, 1911, and the fact of the matter is that both committees had not met until November 6, 1911, and after the committees were unable to reach a decision at this meeting, which President McNulty was chairman of, McNulty instructed the committees to send briefs to him and he would render his decision. Our brief was sent to Atlanta, Georgia, where McNulty was going, to attend the A. F. of L. convention. Now one of the reasons of No. 376 dating their brief ahead is to discredit McNulty in being slow in rendering his decision and, as a matter of fact, they misrepresented things to you that caused you to secede before McNulty received either of the briefs. They say that we have jeopardized conditions in the switchboard shop. This is an absolute lie, as all those men have received an increase of 2 1-2 cents per hour since working under our jurisdiction, which most of them would not have gotten if remaining in No. 376. We don't claim the men that work in those shops, and never did, but in order to protect the label, we were forced to take some action and have these men where we could render them assistance, as we couldn't very well assist an organization which was out trying to take work away from us. That never before was done or claimed by shopmen in view of the above mentioned circumstances, and owing to the fact that No. 376 has joined the dual organization known as the Reid-Murphy organization, a shop local was installed Friday, November 24, 1911, which is known as Local No. 713, by an organizer of the McNulty-Collins organization. We advise that you write to Peter W. Collins, at Springfield, and get traveling cards and transfer into Local No. 713. Hoping that this information will put you on the right track and

guaranteeing you the support of Local No. 134 and Local No. 9, we are

Yours fraternally,

Advisory Board, Local No. 134, O. B. Graves, Secretary.

Martin J. Healy, Business Agent, Local No. 9.

Nov. 25, 1911.

To the Editor of the Worker:

I have been asked what impressed me most in Rochester, where our convention was held in September. It was a feeling of pity for the seemingly bright young men that were assembled there under the banner of secession, and believing they were right in the course they were pursuing, under the leadership of some of the Benedict Arnolds of the labor movement. I admit these are strong words, but I believe they are not strong enough for some of these so-called leaders who know they started this secession movement by making false charges and backing up their statements by downright lying and making their followers believe they were telling the truth. Now at the beginning of this secession movement I did believe there were some grounds for complaint, but I also believed there was a proper way to go about it. Not by taking the statements of a few disgruntled individuals and calling a convention illegally, so that a lot of men who thought they had a grievance against our international officers could get together and make all sorts of extravagant charges, and get away with them, because there was no one to contradict them at that time.

Among some of the charges they were going to put Collins and McNulty in jail for stealing the funds of the I. B. E. W. Why cannot they try and make good?

Another charge against McNulty was made by one Gary of Portland, Oregon, who since made affidavit that it was not true. So it has been with all their charges up to date. Nothing in them that will bear investigation.

Why cannot some of these men, who think they are right, stop and think over some of the past actions of leaders, especially in the past two years? Take their action here in New York in starting a local here whose members are working for anything they can get, helping out some of the most notorious employers of scab labor in the electrical trade. And who represented by Ed Kelly, that notorious union wrecker whom Reid put in as their delegate. (Ask local 26 of Washington who he is.) Reid said he had to put him in as delegate. The question arises, by whose orders? Was it Lawyer Griffing, the counsel for the Manufacturers' association who was also counsel for local 133? I strongly suspect there is a close

connection there. Can Reid or Meyers explain away friendly relations with some of these expelled members that they associate with when they are in New York, expelled members of other trades than the electrical trade?

Can Reid, Meyers and Lacy explain why they offered to put men on the Albany capitol for \$3.00 per day when our men were receiving \$4.50 per day? Can they explain why they send men to Hudson, N. Y., for \$3.00 per day where our men were on strike against non-union men setting poles and our men were receiving \$4.50 per day? Can they explain their action in Schenectady when they wanted to sign up an agreement with the contractors that local 140 were on strike against for ten months and would have done so if C. F. U. had not got after them and told them they would not stand for their scabby actions? (See minutes of that body in Schenectady.)

These are things that I have personal knowledge of. I only wish some of the Brothers in the west were here to investigate for themselves. I think there would be something doing P. D. Q., with some of them. But there is an old saying, "There are none so blind as those who won't see," and I suppose we have some of them in the electrical trade. I think it is time they should wake up to the conditions they have brought the electrical trade into by their insane action. I do not know how things are in the west, but I do know how they are in the east, especially around New York, and I am speaking about it as I have seen it, and if there are men in the west that call themselves union men, and stand for actions of this kind, then good-bye to the labor movement.

Your fraternally,

M. J. Horohan.

Oct. 21, 1911.

Mr. David Kreyling, Secretary,  
Trades and Labor Union,  
3535 Pine St., St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir and Brother:

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor now in session in this city has had under consideration, among other matters, the correspondence in connection with the protest made by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers against the action of the St. Louis Trades and Labor Union in expelling from membership therein the local union of Electrical Workers by reason of a jurisdictional dispute between Electrical Workers' Local No. 101 and Theatrical Stage Employees' Local No. 143. The reply to the protest of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers which you made under date of August 5th on behalf of the Central Body was also con-

sidered in connection with other papers in this case. The Executive Council authorized me to advise the Trades and Labor Union, which I now do through you as secretary, that the Theatrical Stage Employees' International Alliance and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, both being in full affiliation with the American Federation of Labor that their respective locals are entitled to representation in affiliated Central Bodies, where such bodies are in existence and that therefore the local of the Electrical Workers and the local of the Stage Employees in St. Louis are entitled to and should be allowed full representation in the Central Body. In the meantime, arrangements for a conference between the representatives of the two National organizations are in progress with the purpose in view of endeavoring to have them reach some mutually satisfactory basis of agreement as to the disputed points of jurisdiction between them.

In connection with the subject matter of locals of affiliated National and International Unions being represented in affiliated Central Bodies, your attention is called to Section 8, Article 11 of the Constitution of the A. F. of L., which reads as follows:

"No Central Body or Department affiliated with the American Federation of Labor shall reject credentials presented by a duly elected or appointed delegation of a local union chartered by a National or an International Union having affiliation with the American Federation of Labor; provided, however, that upon written charges signed by at least three delegates, any delegate of an affiliated union may, upon conviction after a fair trial, be expelled or suspended. Action of the Central Body under this section shall be subject to appeal to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and no delegation representing local unions affiliated as herein described, shall be suspended or expelled until like action is taken."

I am also advising the officers of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as to the action taken by the Executive Council in this case and it is hoped that prompt steps will be taken by your Central Body to conform thereto.

Trusting that I may hear from you at your earliest convenience and with kind regards, I am,

Faternally yours,

(Signed) Sam. Gompers,

President American Federation of Labor.

#### CARMEN ORGANIZED.

After combatting the opposition of the officials of the Great Northern Railway, a local lodge of the Brotherhood of Rail-

way Carmen of America has been established in Great Falls, Mont. It will be known as "Rainbow Lodge," and started in with a membership of over fifty.

#### HITS THEM AGAIN.

#### Dividend Dividing and Profit Sharing Scheme of the Sugar Trust and Steel Trust Are Condemned.

Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, lauded labor organizations and flayed the trusts, in St. Joseph, Mo., recently. The following excerpt from Secretary Morrison's address appeared in the St. Joseph Union:

"Morrison saw in the hostility of employers of labor not a bad sign of the day, but rather an indication of the necessity of organization of the wage workers. He condemned the dividend dividing and profit sharing schemes of the sugar trust and the steel trust. He said that if the roll was called of corporations using the scheme that not one would be found employing union labor. He said in those concerns the man had nothing to say about the hours of employment, the wages or the conditions under which the men must work.

"There are some misconceptions of organized labor to which I would like to call your attention," said Mr. Morrison. "The unions are not opposed to organizations of employers. They welcome such organizations, because with them they are able to make terms which bring about peace. But the unions will oppose to the death organizations of employers which are organized solely to destroy organized labor.

"It is a mistake to assert that the unions provide that a poor man shall be paid as much as a good man at his trade. The unions set a minimum rate, the smallest amount a union man is entitled to receive. There is nothing to prevent an employer from paying any amount he wants above the scale. The fact is that the employer takes the minimum scale provided and makes it his maximum. Organized labor legislates for the majority.

"Organized labor is not opposed to labor saving machinery. While organized men are not begging for machinery they do say that they want shorter hours, so that more men can be employed, and that labor saving machinery will be a blessing and not a curse.

"Some say that labor is a trust. The definition of a trust is an organization of a few persons to control an industry so as to control prices, the profits of the business to be divided among a few men. Organized labor welcomes every wage worker into its ranks and wants to make the organization as big as possible."

# **ROCHESTER CONVENTION AND THE FUTURE PROGRESS OF THE IN- TERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.**

Editor Electrical Worker:

As a delegate to this convention I desire to record my impression of the work done and the ultimate future progress of the organization.

I have had a varied experience in the trade union movement; the first convention which I attended, as a delegate from Montana, being the Minneapolis session of the Knights of Labor in 1885. I have attended many conventions of wage workers since that date and have had opportunities to study the men who represented their trade unions and the principles of the same.

I have always endeavored to dispel from my mind personal feelings and partisan or factional inclinations and survey the proceedings and personnel of the delegates assemblies from a philosophical viewpoint. It is my candid opinion that the real harmony, diligence of purpose and fealty to their own opinions, displayed by the brothers who met at Rochester, September 18, 1911, was of a much higher standard than I have ever seen before. They are deserving of the highest tribute and esteem from the members whom they represented. The serious business of the sessions was conducted in the spirit of fairness to all concerned. The report of the officers reflected great credit on their ability, as was evidenced by their unanimous re-election. The several committees appointed and elected, discharged their duties promptly with the approval of the delegates present.

Any differences of opinion which may have existed were at the final conclusion amicably settled. In this convention, as in all delegated bodies, many conflicting opinions must necessarily exist. From the very nature of the electrical trade, with its many branches, each having their own particular interests supported by the men engaged therein, it follows that there will be some disappointed delegates. If any such were present at this convention they accepted the will of the majority, which all who are members of this or any other organization, must ultimately accept.

We are citizens of a country whose cornerstone of government is majority rule. The present internal struggle in our ranks was precipitated by those who would not be governed by the constitution which had received the sanction of a majority of the members of this Brotherhood. When the paramount issue, viz.: the bona fide I. B. of E. W. is permanently and legally determined, we will extend the right hand of fellowship to all

those who have been faithful to their obligations. The settlement of this dissension will mark a new era in the history of this grand Brotherhood. Its destiny is to bring all men, and women as well, who may be employed in the various branches of the electrical trade, within its own ranks. As members of the Union they would enjoy the personal benefits which the organization would afford to them by a united Brotherhood.

This desired condition can only be accomplished by the constant personal efforts of each and every one employed at any branch of the trade. Every member must realize that his or her individual welfare is at stake, in common with all who work for wages. The rapid development and progress made in all branches of the electrical world in the past decade will continue. This will call for thousands of efficient men who will be eligible for membership.

The constitution can be amended to meet the requirements of the everchanging conditions which are going on in the industrial world.

The Brotherhood can offer such inducements and benefits to those employed at the trade, that they will see the necessity of affiliation for their own personal welfare.

It is admitted by all who have given any study or thought to the principles and objects which the Trade Unions advocate that men must combine their strength and unite their influence for a common purpose. By doing this they will enjoy the privileges which come to those who are members of the Trade Unions. These benefits consist of a higher rate of wages, shorter work day, and many privileges which our advancing civilization demands.

Individual effort in seeking to improve these conditions is futile and has become obsolete with the introduction of our modern business methods. Our trade can profit by the experience of the older unions and be prepared to meet the changed conditions which have occurred. To do this they must build a structure that will stand the test of time and be a blessing to those who may hold membership in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the future.

Charles W. Hanscom,

Quincy, Mass.

## **LABOR MEN BEATEN.**

Rezin Orr, international secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electrical Railway Employees, and John J. Scannell, organizer for the Boot and Shoe Workers' union in Toledo, Ohio, have been badly beaten. They allege that the attack was made by hired sluggers of the local traction company.

## A GREAT OVATION.

Great Throng of Workers Hear President  
Gompers in Portland, Oregon, and  
Greet Him With Cheers.

The following excerpt from the Portland, Ore., Daily Journal, is one of the many tributes paid the labor chief on the Pacific coast:

"The crowd last night was as remarkable as the man who addressed it. It was a great perspiring throng that hung on every word of their leader, responsive to his every thought. The applause that greeted the great man of labor was renewed when he arose to speak. It showed how working people place Gompers in the highest of high places.

"The sentences of the labor leader when he arose to speak were halting. Aroused by the fire of his own utterances, his voice lifted to a higher and more penetrating note; his utterances became rapid. Without complaint or thought of it the people listened for two hours, not even trying to fan their heated faces.

"Gompers told the working people that if the law is made to operate to send him to jail he will go, and so will his associates. 'We will not run away—I wasn't made for running purposes,' he declared.

"The strike,' he said, 'is not a force to be carelessly used. Often the strike is an obstruction to the forward movement of unionism. We are opposed to strikes except when strikes cannot be avoided without degradation and humiliation. Then, I say, strike and strike hard.'

"Came then a bit of philosophy. 'Unionism,' said Gompers, 'recognizes as truth that we are our brother's keeper, and that we should bear each other's burdens, for in so doing our burdens are made lighter. We also have this commandment: Thou shalt not take thy neighbor's job.'

"The injunction as now used abrogates a right guaranteed by the constitution, a right only before abrogated in time of war, but now used to protect a stove or a hat.

"The decision of the Supreme Court, for instance, in the Stanard Oil case, said to the trusts, 'You must not rob the people any more in the same old way. You must do it reasonably. And meantime we will give you six months more to rob them in the same old way.'

"Workingmen and women, this is tyranny from within, the tyranny that once burned its victims at the stake and now jails them. It is a tyranny that denies the right to protest, the right to strike; that uses a pliant judge to clothe tyranny in the form of law. This is a

tyranny, these are elements, that endanger the success of our republic.

"Were I not an optimist I should doubt the perpetuity of our republic under such conditions. But with the strength of our unionism, our schools and such a form of government as the Oregon system, the men and women of our time know their rights and dare to assert them at any risk. The men and women of labor look the whole world in the face, demanding equality of opportunity that is their due."

## THE ANNUAL JOKE.

Mr Braise of the Tailors union, was up with his annual joke in the shape of a protest on the credentials of the Electrical Workers and was allowed to make an ass of himself, as usual, and his protest summarily dismissed.

Queer how far some people will go to attract attention. The Braise boy just must get on the records somehow and as he is harmless in the extreme all can enjoy his little joke.

## PADDED PICTURE PUZZLE.

(J. P. Noonan.)

The secession leaders publish a circular containing an alleged picture of their convention together with a post card picture of some of the delegates to the regular I. B. E. W. convention and call attention to the difference in numbers on the pictures. Trying to show a majority. But they craftily neglected to state that they called all district councils to hold a convention at Rochester at the same time as their general convention was held, and the fact that all district councils were well represented by other than delegates to convention. They served to swell the number materially, and then they try to prove that they are delegates by publishing a roster of the local unions from which they come.

This is a joke, for of course all district council men must belong to some local. This together with the fact that they have split every local possible during the past three years in order to have a delegate and vote for the smallest possible number of members in case of a joint convention, made possible a big picture. When they allowed locals representation who were less than a month in good standing with them, in defiance of all laws past and present, and invited all local men to participate, gathered some women, some strangers, a policeman and a dog to fill out the crowd, enlarged the figures, and had the representatives of fourteen district councils mixed up with the delegates they could easily offer a prize for the first parties finding the legal delegates.



The other puzzle for the delegates to solve is when or how will they get the transportation expense guaranteed them by the constitution. As three years of gathering did not yield it to them.

Puzzle No. 3 is what became of the death benefit fund and convention fund that was squandered when the law says it shall be used for no other purpose than payment of death claims and convention expenses.

It is apparent that there are a number of puzzles to be solved, but we intend to devote our energies to the solution of our problem first and that is shall secession be repeated or repudiated, and the answer will be delivered in the near future.

Brete Harte wrote, "For ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain the heathen Chinese is peculiar." Had Bret Harte known our esteemed (?) contemporaries of secession fame (?) he would have blushed with shame to think that he had selected as an example of treachery a comparative novice at the game.—J. P. Noonan.

#### DOING THINGS IN SERVIA.

**Servians No Longer Work from Sunrise to Sunset. Unionism Shortens the Hours of Labor.**

The introduction of trades unionism into Servia has brought about many changes for the better among the working classes. The greater benefits, as far as hours of labor are concerned, have been secured by those working in factories, a class that has embraced unionism to a much larger extent than those engaged in other lines of business. The following statement is from the "Daily Trades and Consular Reports" issued by the Bureau of Manufacturers, Department of Commerce and Labor. "In accordance with the law of June 22, 1910, it has been ordered that business houses in Belgrade must not be opened earlier than 6:30 a. m., and must be closed by 8 p. m. They must also be closed between 12:30 and 2 p. m.

"The stores of the wholesale merchants may be kept open two hours later from March 1 to April 15 and from September 1 to October 15, the busy season. Retail stores may be kept open two hours longer from April 15 to June 15 and from September 1 to October 1. In the city of Nish business places may be kept open from 6 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. and from 1:15 to 7:30 p. m. In all other cities and towns in the interior the hours are from 6 a. m. to noon and from 2 to 8 p. m. from April 1 to September 30, and from 7 a. m. to noon and from

1 to 8 p. m. during the rest of the year. On Saturday the stores may be kept open until 9:00 p. m.

It has also been ordered that the working hours in factories shall be from 7 a. m. to noon and from 1:00 to 6:00 p. m. during the period beginning October 1 and ending April 1, and 6:00 a. m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p. m. during the rest of the year. At night the hours shall be from 7:00 to 12:00 and from 1:00 to 5:00. Employees are not to be kept at work on Sundays or holidays. There are 25 lesser holidays when stores must be closed during the church services from 9 to 11 a. m.

Carpenters at Rochester, Minn., have increased their wages 5 cents per hour.

#### STRIKE WON IN TWO HOURS.

As the result of a strike of the Great Western Railway shunters at Llanelly, England, which lasted for two hours, a conference was held with the division superintendent and the men were granted eight hour shifts and an increase in wages, the demands being conceded in full.

Circulars have been sent into the eastern states from San Diego, Cal., stating that there was a shortage of men in the building crafts. This statement is untrue and not in accord with the facts, there being no extra work at this time.

#### FOR INJURED WORKMEN.

Chief Justice Sir William Meredith has been in Toronto lately to receive suggestions from the various interested Canadian organizations for the proposed compensation to injured workmen act upon which he is working. The necessity for a radical change in the act was emphasized by the labor men, who for the most part were strongly in favor of the British system of arbitration. The commissioner, while expressing no definite preference, appeared to favor the system in the State of Washington, where injured workmen are given compensation out of a fund raised by the State by a tax upon the employers.

#### COMPENSATION ACT UPHELD.

The supreme court of Wisconsin state has just handed down a decision upholding the constitutionality of the Workmen's Compensation act.

State Labor Commissioner Van Duyn of Iowa, has instituted a crusade against Greek bootblacks, who are importing youngsters from Greece, in the shining parlors, in violation of the contract labor laws.